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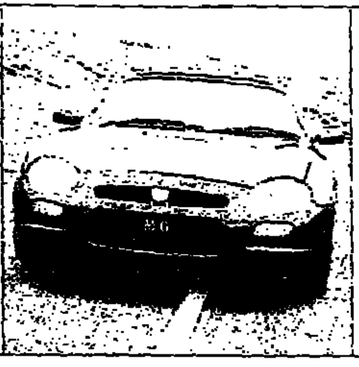

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THE TIMES

No. 65,254 SATURDAY APRIL 29 1995

Champion of NHS fundholding claims death threats pushed him to heroin

Tory reform GP 'driven to take drugs'

By Bill Frost and Jeremy Laurance

A GP widely seen as an architect of the Government's health reforms admitted yesterday that he became addicted to heroin while depressed about a hate campaign by fellow doctors.

Clive Froggatt, who was consulted by Margaret Thatcher and advised five successive Secretaries of State from Norman Fowler to Virginia Bottomley, turned to drugs in 1990 to help him to cope with the pressure after he received two death threats during a vituperative campaign by doctors opposed to the changes, Bristol Crown Court was told.

Yesterday he was given a 12-month jail sentence, suspended for two years, after admitting eight charges of dishonestly obtaining heroin.

Anthony Arlidge, QC, for the defence, said that Frogatt had started taking cocaine in the hope that it might relieve his depression and let him carry on with his work. He obtained the drugs by forging prescriptions in the names of dead patients and others who were still on his list, or had left his practice in Cheltenham.

One of those was Sir Charles Irving, the former Cheltenham MP who died last month. The pair had been friends for many years, and the doctor used Sir Charles's name on a number of bogus prescriptions for pharmaceutical heroin, the most pure and powerful form of the drug. Froggatt later told police that Sir Charles was suffering from Aids.

Froggatt, a 46-year-old father of two, soon found that he was enslaved to heroin and after trying unsuccessfully to wean himself off the drug, he confessed his addiction to his wife in 1993.

They went abroad to try to help him off the drug, but no sooner had he returned to Cheltenham than he was forging prescriptions again. In each case, the prescriptions were exempt from charge, costing the health service at least £2,000.

Philip Mott, QC, for the prosecution, said that a drugs squad officer on routine inquiries among chemists in Cheltenham noticed that a large number of prescriptions were being written for one of Froggatt's patients. Subsequent investigations revealed that the patient was "the last person in the world to be using heroin".

When Froggatt was arrested in his surgery last September, police found three ampoules of heroin and syringes. He denied he was a user, insisting that the bogus prescriptions had been written to protect a well-known local figure.

Professor Griffith Edwards, the consultant psychiatrist treating Froggatt, told the court that his patient was suffering from a desperate illness and the deception he used to obtain the heroin was a symptom, "as much as spots are of measles. He was taking between 66 and 160 milligrams a day; that's a big dose, a very threatening and serious addiction."

Froggatt has quit his practice and in a statement issued before sentence was passed, he said: "I am ashamed and very sorry about the pain my addiction has caused. My drug addiction has had a devastating effect on my life, and that of my family."

On the eve of the last election, Froggatt was lauded as "Britain's most powerful GP" by *General Practicioner* magazine for his role in shaping the health reforms. Lady Thatcher, impatient with the cautious medical royal colleges, apparently liked the way he was prepared to speak his mind and approved of his proposals for giving patients greater choice.

After the reforms were introduced in April 1991, Froggatt set up the Health Reform Group to counter the British Medical Association's opposition to the changes and a profile in the medical press before the 1992 election described him as the Tory party's favourite doctor.

It quoted Dr John Marks, former chairman of the BMA, who described Dr Froggatt as a "Tory first and foremost, above everything else. He's blue to the core, and he is clever and he is pleasant. That's why Conservative secretaries of state like him."

Doctor addicts, page 3

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Froggatt: campaign of hate led him to forge prescriptions in names of dead patients

Call for control of mortgage lender profiteers

By Robert Miller and Jill Sherman

THE Government was urged yesterday to introduce tough new laws to control the selling of mortgages after a report by the Office of Fair Trading said that advisers were selling the most lucrative commission-driven home loans rather than offering the best advice.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, the OFT's Director-General, suggested that mortgages should be regulated by the Financial Services Act, which places a statutory requirement on advisers to act in the best interests of borrowers.

He said he was particularly concerned about the selling of endowment mortgages, which generate as much as £800 in commission per £50,000 of mortgage, according to the Consumers' Association.

Sir Bryan said: "Sixty per cent of all new mortgages are endowment-linked, and this led me to question whether mortgage choice might be unduly influenced by sales commission. Mortgages are not regulated by the Financial Services Act, and there is currently no requirement on the industry to give best advice." He added that the removal or reduction of tax reliefs in the past few years raised questions about the relative merits of endowment and repayment mortgages.

Bank and building societies are certain to fight any new controls on the selling of home loans. The Council of Mortgage Lenders last night dismissed Sir Bryan's call as a "red herring". The row over the hard-selling tactics behind

Continued on page 2, col 5

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INSIDE

Money, Mother and poor young Winston
Weekend

£3 off a WH Smith CD
Weekend, page 6

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Cult TV's top 25 small screen classics
Magazine, page 19

100 killed in rush-hour gas explosion

About 100 South Koreans, more than half of them schoolchildren, died in a rush-hour gas explosion yesterday that hurled cars, trucks and steel plates through the air, crushing and dismembering pedestrians.

The blast happened at Taegu, 150 miles south of Seoul. Ninety-nine people were confirmed killed and 200 injured but rescuers said the toll would rise. One theory was that an excavator had punctured a gas pipe in a subway ....Page 15

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Names face £260m loss on Lloyd's

ONE thousand names who backed two insurance underwriting syndicates at Lloyd's of London could face losses of up to £260 million on policies that pay other names' losses.

The estimate comes in a report commissioned by Lloyd's into syndicates 80 and 843, both formerly managed by the RFA Macmillan agency. The report, may now be used in lawsuits by 500 members of the Macmillan Names Action Group.

Simon Blunt, chairman of the action group, said: "This loss review is a condemnation not only of those responsible for underwriting and managing the syndicates during the 1980s, but also a condemnation of the failure of self-regulation at Lloyd's.

"It fully supports and justifies the litigation this action group has commenced."

Agency criticised, page 21

Stamps set seal on VE-Day

By John Young

A NEW set of five stamps commemorating the 50th anniversaries of VE-Day and the founding of the United Nations, and the 125th birthday of the British Red Cross, will be launched by Dame Vera Lynn on Monday.

During the Second World War, the Post Office handled 20 million letters and four million parcels for British servicemen every week. With the British Red Cross it also delivered 28,000 parcels to prisoners of war.

Maintaining a speedy and efficient wartime postal service was given high priority. On one night in September 1940, 23 post offices in London received direct hits, but business continued as usual.

After 1940, when news of air raids was made public, the Post Office had to cope with a huge increase in telegrams from friends and relatives seeking information.

Since postal work was not a reserved occupation, it also faced drastic reductions in staff. More than 73,000 employees were called up for active service, to be partly replaced by middle-aged and elderly men and women. The war years saw a number of innovations, notably microphotography, which enabled up to 1,700 letters to be transported on film weighing 5½ ounces.

The two VE-Day stamps were designed by John Goreham and based on photographs of soldiers and civilians celebrating the liberation of Paris, and of St Paul's Cathedral. The other three were designed by Jean-Michel Folon. All five will be on sale at post offices from Tuesday.

War of words, page 9

Cantona to stay with Man Utd

By John Goodbody

ERIC CANTONA yesterday signed a new three-year contract with Manchester United and insisted it would be "easy" to ignore further provocations from players and supporters.

The French forward, who last month pleaded guilty to assaulting a Crystal Palace fan after being sent off in a Premiership game in January, turned down the chance to join Internazionale of Milan in a £5.5 million deal.

Cantona, who has [illegible] banned from playing [illegible] October, said: "I thought about leaving [illegible] never. It is a love [illegible] cannot say more than [illegible] is something very stro[illegible] me. The love of the club [illegible] most important thing in [illegible] world."

Rob Hughes, page 39
Peter Ball, page 40

Advertisement

Toddlers alone in Rwanda need your help now

Report from Rwanda

"THERE are babies, toddlers, young children everywhere, hiding in the bushes lying in the mud, wandering dazed and alone," according to Ulfur Bjornsson, Field Director for Feed the Children in Rwanda. "They have [illegible]d no food or water for five days. [illegible] if they had not suffered [illegible]h, many have been cut with [illegible]s or stoned." Babies have [illegible]d sobbing beside the [illegible]f their mothers.

[illegible]en UK charity Feed the [illegible]hildren received news of the [illegible]assacre at the Kibeho refugee [illegible]amp, it worked through the [illegible]ght to complete the child[illegible]'s Transit Centre it has been [illegible]ing in Butare.

[illegible] 48 hours, 700 unaccompanied toddlers, infants and yo[illegible] [illegible]ldren were brought to the Ce[illegible]e.

Agencies are working together to find and collect these frightened, traumatised children and bring them to the safety of Feed the Children's Transit Centre.

Eight out of ten of these children are aged under five. They cannot fend for themselves. They need our help.

With a gift of £25 from you, Feed the Children could feed 12 orphaned children for a week. Please don't wait. Tomorrow could be too late.

You can help stop the suffering in Rwanda

I can't ignore the suffering. Here is my gift of:
£25☐ £50☐ £100☐ £250*☐ £______☐ (other)
Please make your cheque payable to Feed the Children
OR debit my ☐ Visa ☐ Access ☐ Switch card
CARD NUMBER ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Last three digits of Switch card no ☐☐☐ Switch issue no. ☐☐
EXPIRY DATE / SIGNATURE
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ADDRESS
POSTCODE TELEPHONE
OR please phone our donation line 0990 600610
*A gift of £250 or more is worth an extra third to us under Gift Aid.
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£40 lottery prize adds to Churchill's winning streak

Churchill: leaving Sale Town Hall yesterday

By Kate Alderson

AS IF receiving a slice of the £12.5 million paid from National Lottery funds for his grandfather's papers were not enough, Winston Churchill MP won a further £40 on two lottery tickets bought from a newsagent, it emerged yesterday.

Historians and backbench MPs have been withering in their criticism of Mr Churchill, Tory MP for Davyhulme, for accepting such a huge sum for the archive that many regard as national property. His more conventional win on the lottery by the usual means of buying tickets at £1 will only serve to focus yet more attention on the fortunes of Sir Winston's 54-year-old grandson.

Things did not go well yesterday for Mr Churchill, who was planning a quiet day in his constituency. He had barely set out from home when his flight from London to Manchester was delayed by the aircrash at the city's airport.

Arriving breathless he blundered through the day by admitting that he played the lottery but did not think about helping good causes when he played, only about winning. And just for good measure he found time in a radio interview to condemn "banana boat" immigrants to Britain.

During the visit to his constituency, which disappears in boundary changes at the next election, Mr Churchill planted a tree at a boy's school, conducted two sparsely attended surgeries and took part in a debate on radio. On the Allan Beswick radio show on BBC GMR, he enthused about the lottery. "When you and I, Allan, buy our lottery ticket we are not thinking of what good cause we are contributing to. We are thinking are we going to be the lucky one ... The fact is that it is only a secondary consideration that this helps a whole range of worthy causes."

He went on to immigration. Excessive immigration was causing "tensions in our society" he said, warning that the "only end result will be the sort of racial tensions and racial strife that we see in Germany ... If they can get on a banana boat, if they can get on a 747, and arrive by any way, they will come."

Popularity grows, page 7
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HITLER DEAD
FÜHRER "HAS FALLEN AT HIS COMMAND POST"
DÖNITZ ANNOUNCES HIMSELF AS SUCCESSOR
RESISTANCE TO CONTINUE
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How *The Times* reported the last week of the war in Europe: each day next week, a facsimile of *The Times* main news page of 50 years ago

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THE TIMES AT 10p - YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS IT

Largest union urged at 11th hour to switch its support and back change

Blair set for comfortable victory to reform Labour

By Philip Webster, political editor, and Philip Bassett, industrial editor

TONY BLAIR will today hail a *turning point in the history of* the Labour Party as he cruises to a comfortable victory in his seven-month battle to rewrite its constitution.

He will tell party members that replacing the ancient Clause Four on public ownership is an essential step on the *road* to government, and one that makes New Labour a reality. He is expected to say: "I am in step with the party and the party is in step with the people."

As Mr Blair prepared for the most important day in his leadership, the biggest union, the transport workers, was urged dramatically by one of its leaders last night to switch *its vote this morning* and back the Labour leader.

A special conference of more than 1,000 union and constituency delegates will approve by a wide margin a fresh statement of Labour's aims and values, replacing the commitment in its 1918 rulebook to widespread nationalisation of the economy.

Mr Blair is set to pledge that a "distinctive policy agenda" will flow from today's change. "For too long the Tories have defined what it is to be a democratic socialist. It is time we defined it ourselves," he will say.

The attempt to sway the transport union vote today will be mounted by Jack Dromey, its national secretary, a leading moderniser. The Transport and General Workers' Union wields the 14 per cent of the total vote — the single largest.

Mr Dromey, who is married to Harriet Harman, the Shadow Employment Secretary, said yesterday that the TGWU had come under "unprecedented pressure" from individual union members and branches to back Mr Blair, after its general executive council decided to oppose him.

Calculations give Mr Blair a minimum of almost two-thirds of the total conference vote. If the TGWU or any other opposing union switches today it will simply increase his majority.

☐ Michael Heseltine yesterday sought to undermine Tony Blair's certain victory on Clause Four by claiming that the trade unions would continue to set the Labour party's agenda.

The President of the Board of Trade said he had a confidential Labour strategy *document showing the crucial* role the unions would have in a general election. Labour yesterday said the document was produced by the unions, not the party.

SIMON WALKER

Tony Blair making final preparations yesterday

Hurd cautions on early tax cuts

By Philip Webster

DOUGLAS HURD last night called on Conservative MPs not to push the Chancellor too hard on tax cuts, amid signs of increasing Cabinet caution over the risks of pledging big reductions this year.

In a speech to a Conservative audience at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, the Foreign Secretary said that the Government's sums had to add up and that the upward pressure on the social security, health *and education budgets* was immense. It would be a great mistake to press for precise promises on tax, he said.

But Mr Hurd's remarks were accompanied by a vigorous defence of the privatisation programme by Kenneth Clarke, in which he hailed the *big benefits secured by the* consumer. The Treasury is backing further privatisation to finance tax cuts before the election. The Chancellor, who has agreed with the Prime Minister a fresh government offensive to spell out the advantages of privatisation, said that the utilities' performance *had massively improved since* they left the public sector. He pledged that the programme would be extended.

Mr Clarke is known to back the privatisation of Nuclear Electric and British Rail, and is certain to support any future efforts to sell off the Post *Office. Last night in Notting*ham he said that while the nationalised industries had once cost the taxpayer £60 million a week, they now contributed £50 million a week in tax.

Mr Hurd spoke out on tax as mixed economic signals have prompted some senior *ministers to suggest that the* bulk of Mr Clarke's pre-election tax cuts should come in the 1996 Budget rather than this year.

Loan call

Continued from page 1

commission-generating endowment home loans, as opposed to the more straightforward interest-only or repayment mortgages, has come at a time when homeowners are already making higher *monthly payments* on their endowment loans. Recent rises in interest rates have already contributed to increased mortgage outgoings for the ten million homeowners in Britain.

In addition, cutbacks in the value of mortgage interest tax *relief and a* reduction in the married person's allowance have added nearly £18 a month to the bill for borrowers with a loan of £30,000 *or* more. To add to the pressure on homebuyers with an endowment loan, they have had to pay even more each month because the special funds that back these types of loan are linked to stock market investments, and returns have been *lower than forecast.*

Fall from favour, page 4
Neil Bennett, page 16
Weekend Money, page 25
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MPs restored to whip maintain Euro revolt

Two of the rebel Tory MPs given back the whip earlier this week yesterday continued to defy the party over Europe and stepped up their attacks on Brussels. Chris Gill, MP for Ludlow, told business leaders in the West Midlands that the *public should fight* any moves *towards a single currency. In a* swipe at the Prime Minister's refusal to rule out European monetary union, Mr Gill said that voters should not back any party which had a single currency in its sights.

Teresa Gorman, MP for Billericay, told the same conference that a single currency would be "a nightmare". The European Union was "a bureaucratic tyranny" which would undo Margaret Thatcher's success in re-establishing Britain's place in the world.

Bruton honours war dead

John Bruton yesterday became the first Irish Prime Minister to acknowledge the 150,000 Irish people who fought in the British armed forces in the Second World War. At a ceremony at the national war memorial park in Dublin he stood for a minute's silence. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the North*ern Ireland Secretary, Dick Spring, Deputy* Prime Minister, a Unionist MP and a Sinn Fein representative also attended.

Ex-Iraqi captive acquitted

Paul Ride, who was held in an Iraqi jail for 17 months, was formally acquitted of arson charges yesterday when a court was told he could not cope with the stress of a trial. The ordeal suffered in prison by Mr Ride, 36, of Walthamstow, northeast London, was such that his health and marriage had collapsed, the Old Bailey heard. Mr Ride, who was freed in December 1993, attempted suicide last October when his wife left him.

Cancer treatment error

Almost 2,000 patients treated for cancer have had their records checked after it emerged that a radiotherapy machine had been used on the wrong setting for 17 years. The machine, at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, was used to treat a variety of cancers with radiotherapy. The hospital said it regretted the error but was unaware of any "adverse outcomes". The underdosages were below 10 per cent.

Class sizes grow again

Class sizes in state schools have risen for the fifth year in a row in spite of an increase of 2,500 teachers, the Education Department said yesterday. The ratio of pupils to each member of staff rose from 18.1 to 18.3 and is expected to worsen *considerably in the coming year.* Statistics for 1994, issued in a separate report, show that almost 95,000 children are already being taught in classes of more than 35 pupils.

£5m cocaine gang jailed

Three people behind a £5 million crack cocaine ring were jailed by Southwark Crown Court yesterday. They were *arrested after an 18-month investigation in* which police found 5.5 kilos worth more than £1 million. The find was the largest ever and police believe the ring produced more than 20 kilos in total. Andre N'Guessan, 34, a Ghanaian, was jailed for 20 years. Two accomplices were jailed for 16 years and five years.

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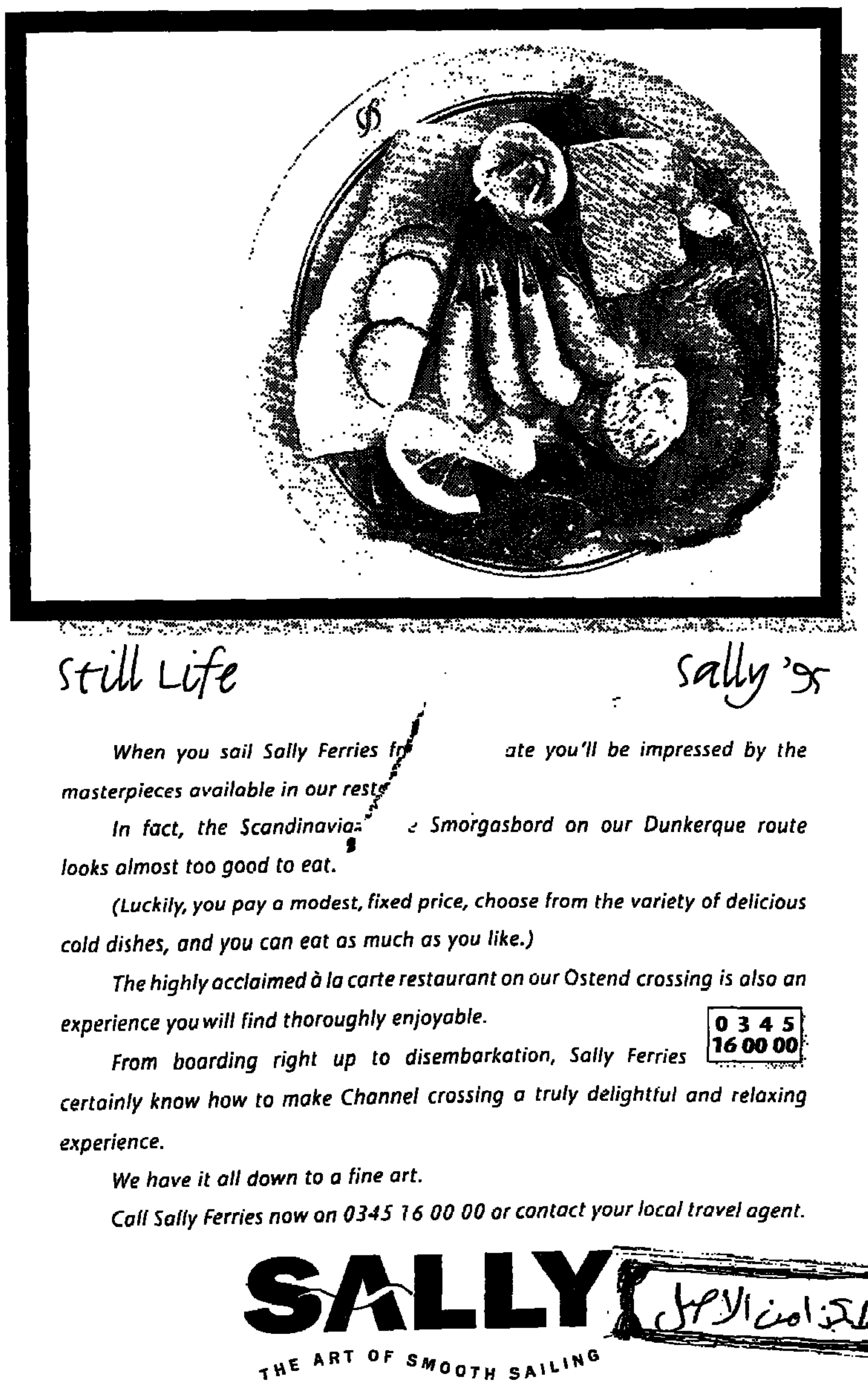

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Cheltenham GP convicted for drugs

Tory doctor says goodbye to a life of deception

By Andrew Pierce

IN THE space of a decade, Clive Froggatt rose from being an obscure family doctor in Cheltenham to confidant to successive Health Secretaries; from Sir Norman Fowler to Virginia Bottomley.

He had a knack for being in the right place at the right time, once responding to a call for a doctor at the Grand Hotel in Brighton to find himself treating Margaret Thatcher for a sore throat. But it was when he was researching the future of general practice as a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners that his speeches and articles, reported in the medical press, came to the notice of Sir Norman Fowler, the then Social Services Secretary.

He was brought in as an adviser by Sir Norman, who was grateful to have found a doctor who was a card-carrying Tory. Mrs Thatcher demanded radical thinkers from outside the civil service to reform the health service. Froggatt was summoned to a brainstorming session in Chequers in 1988 and impressed the Prime Minister with his forthright views. He soon became the driving force in the team which devised the GP contract and fundholding system.

Froggatt, with the patronage of such powerful figures, seemed destined for Westminster. He appeared the classic Tory candidate. A successful family doctor, local councillor, with a devoted wife, Paula, a a magistrate.

He was groomed for political life by the late Sir Charles Irving, the Cheltenham MP until 1992, who had always hoped that Froggatt, his closest friend and personal physician, would succeed him as MP.

It was not to be. Anonymous letters were sent to the Tory Party Chief Whip and Downing Street alleging that Froggatt was a homosexual. The rumours damaged Froggatt in the eyes of Cheltenham Conservatives, and, to protect his family, he called a halt to his parliamentary ambitions. It was not the end of the world as he was wielding more influence than even the brightest Tory MP could ever dream of. When Kenneth Clarke had to pull out of a health debate at the Oxford Union, Froggatt stepped in.

Froggatt, a regular speaker at Tory conferences, abandoned the county council in 1989 in favour of the secretaryship of the influential Conservative Medical Society and to try for the post of honorary secretary of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Thatcher: admirer

Pressure of the allegations about his private life, criticism of the reforms, combined with his work as a general practitioner, and failure to secure the post at the Royal College, resulted in the overwhelming burden that pushed Froggatt to drugs. He battled against his addiction for several years and sought treatment.

Few people would have thought that Froggatt, a pillar of the community, was an addict. Even after the police had interviewed him, he was preparing for his most prestigious speaking invitation: at the United States Congress. His position as the most influential doctor in the land seemed assured.

When a newspaper telephoned his surgery asking about the police investigation he knew the game was up. He confessed his addiction to his family who rallied round. Froggatt sought further help at the clinic and was dismayed to find special branch officers in the grounds.

Froggatt, who once said "doctors are brighter than ordinary people", knows his political career is over. He will now help others fight their addiction at a clinic in London where he has been offered a job as a counsellor.

Drug admission, page 1

Drug laws hinder abuse by patients but not doctors

By Dr Thomas Stuttaford

The Misuse of Drug Regulations 1985 and 1973, and the Misuse of Drugs Act of 1971 are more effective in controlling drug abuse in patients than in their doctors.

It is easy for a doctor to obtain drugs for personal use; if the rules were tightened many dying patients would suffer.

General practitioners can still prescribe heroin, morphia, synthetic opioids and cocaine so long as they are for pain relief. This applies even if the patient is an addict. Pain relief is an essential part of a doctor's work, and if there is to be criticism of the use of dangerous drugs by GPs it would perhaps be that too often patients who are terminally ill, and in pain, have inadequate analgesia — rather than that their use is often abused. Some doctors have been discouraged from prescribing heroin even when it is needed because of public anxiety.

Doctors can cheat by inventing a fictitious name on a prescription and collecting the controlled drugs themselves; by using a named patient who does not need the medication, or by collecting drugs for a patient who does, but only giving them a proportion of the amount. Although chemist and doctor both keep records of drugs given, which must match, there is no way in which every injection given in a patient's home could be checked.

Other doctors have been known to substitute a lesser analgesic to heroin, in these cases the doctor leaves the pharmacy with heroin, morphia or cocaine in his bag — but the patient is given something much less powerful.

However, despite the access doctors have to drugs, surprisingly few succumb to the temptation to abuse them.

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40 doctors known to be drug addicts

By Jeremy Laurance
health correspondent

ABOUT 40 doctors who are known drug addicts are practising in Britain, according to the General Medical Council, the doctors' disciplinary body.

The figures show that 130 doctors were under supervision by the council last September because of problems with drink or drugs or because they were mentally ill. Since 1980, the council has investigated 534 doctors whose fitness to practise has been affected by ill health, of whom a third — 176 — have been addicted to drugs. However, only those whose drug or drink problem is severe enough to affect their performance as doctors and who are reported by the public or their colleagues come to the notice of the council.

The National Counselling Service for Sick Doctors, an independent organisation set up seven years ago to help doctors with problems before they come to the notice of the GMC, dealt with 400 calls last year. "A large proportion were for drink or drugs," Dr Jolyon Oxley, an organiser, said.

The ease of access to supply is a factor in the comparatively high rate of drug addiction among doctors. Many GPs keep diamorphine, pharmaceutically pure heroin, and other powerful painkillers for use in emergencies.

It is often possible for doctors taking heroin or other drugs to conceal their addiction. Many drug users can continue to function normally and hold down a job as long as they are able to get a clean, regular supply.

Catherine Crooks, left, the mistress of David James who is accused of murdering his wife Sandra, right, to solve his financial problems

BURTON DAILY MAIL

Vet 'killed wife with cocktail of animal drugs'

By Simon de Bruxelles

A VET murdered his wife with a cocktail of animal drugs mixed with orange juice so that he could set up home with his mistress, a jury was told yesterday.

David James, 40, is alleged to have given his wife Sandra, 38, doses of phenobarbitone which put her into a coma. He then persuaded or forced her to drink the juice laced with Immobilon, a drug used to put large animals to sleep. When the remains of the drink were examined after her death it was found to contain enough of the drug to kill six people, Peter Joyce QC, prosecuting, told Stafford Crown Court. James, of Burton on Trent, denies murdering his wife in January last year.

In September 1993, after ten years of marriage, he started an affair with Catherine Crooks, a married woman who was a family friend. Within three weeks of the affair he had left his wife and three children and moved in with his mistress.

Mr Joyce said: "He moved back into the family home in November 1993. The reason for this was was purely financial and the affair continued with them meeting as regularly as possible." Shortly before Christmas 1993 Mrs James fell ill. Her hair showed that she had received Phenobarbitone before and after Christmas 1993 and other drugs in the week leading up to her death.

Mr Joyce said: "For the two days before Christmas friends of Mrs James said she was like a zombie, as if she was drugged. But she did not smell of drink. Mrs James took Phenobarbitone, whether it was administered directly or she was tricked into it."

Mr Joyce said that in the days leading up to Mrs James' death she was given Immobilon and Revivon. Immobilon is so dangerous it can render a victim unconscious in 30 seconds. He said: "Mr James, with access to those drugs, set about killing his wife and succeeded. He could not afford to live with his mistress.

"He had everything to gain by his wife's death and nothing to gain from divorce. There were also substantial debts, more than £140,000, and they were wiped out by her death." Mrs Crooks, a mother of three, now lives at the James's family home looking after the James children as well as her own. The trial continues.

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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Home loan packages proliferate in the wake of housing crash and decline in stock market

The fall from favour of endowment mortgages

By Robert Miller

FEW investments have fallen from grace so completely as the endowment mortgage.

In 1982 mortgages linked to an endowment policy accounted for a mere 18 per cent of the housing market. Home-ownership then became a cornerstone of successive Conservative governments. The number of people climbing onto the housing ladder was boosted by local authorities selling homes under the "right to buy" campaign.

The key criticisms of endowment mortgages are that they generate huge commissions for sales staff and that stock market returns are not guaranteed. At their peak in 1998 they accounted for 84 per cent of the housing market. That figure has since fallen to 60 per cent after the housing market crashed, stock market returns fell and organisations such as the Consumers' Association called into question their suitability.

Banks, building societies and other centralised mortgage lenders cast around for different ways to rekindle interest. These have included fixed-interest loans rate over varying periods, usually of up to five years, heavily discounted mortgages, and, latterly, cash-back deals.

With endowment mortgages, monthly payments are paid to the lender who in turn passes them on to an insurance company for investment in a stock market fund. The assumption is that over the mortgage term, generally 25 years, the fund will generate sufficient returns not just to pay off the original loan but to leave a "nest egg".

A with-profits endowment policy pays an annual bonus based on how well the fund has performed over the past year, and a bonus at the end of the term.

The unit-linked endowment policy does not pay annual bonuses and its value fluctuates depending on the stock market and the fund manager's ability. Theoretically, borrowers could make all the monthly payments but still not pay off the mortgage.

Lenders and fund managers are unlikely to let that happen because they keep a close watch on the money throughout the term of the policy. In the last five years of the loan, the fund manager checks the sums every year. Since the early 1990s, more borrowers have been faced with higher monthly mortgage payments just to ensure that their endowment policy can pay off the loan.

Monthly payments made on repayment mortgages are intended to be sufficient to cover both capital and interest.

An interest-only mortgage simply means that the monthly payments cover the interest of the loan. The capital sum borrowed at the outset to fund the house purchase is repaid at the end of the term through a number of avenues.

Pension, unit trust, investment trust and personal equity plan (Peps) mortgages all allow borrowers to build up a capital lump sum through investing in the stock market that pays off the mortgage at the end of the term. The risk factor is that all those repayment vehicles are again linked to the stock market.

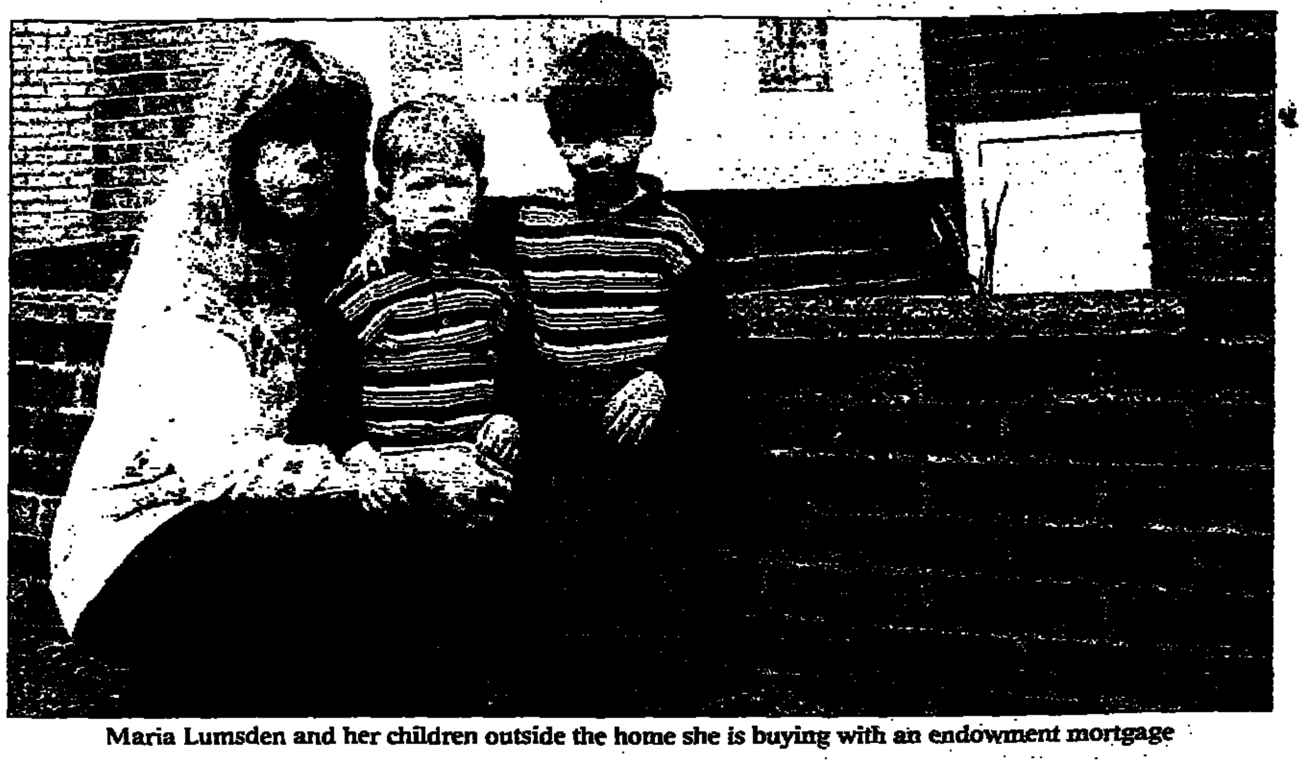
Cash-back mortgages give buyers a lump sum when the house purchase is completed. The value of those particular deals can range from £500 up to £3,000, but there can often be heavy early redemption penalties.

Fixed-rate mortgages undercut the standard variable mortgage rate, currently 8.35 per cent, generally for periods of between one and five years. The biggest risk is a large rise in interest rates.

THE OFT REPORT

- **Endowments have been oversold because salesmen get better commissions for selling endowment mortgages than repayment mortgages or Peps.**
- **Life companies should give more information on the cost of surrendering policies early and the investment *assumptions they are making*, as well as how payouts to policyholders reflect investment performance.**
- **Consumers should be warned of the tax and investment risks associated with endowment and Pep mortgages.**
- **Companies should simplify their charges.**
- **Lenders and mortgage advisers should get more information about their customers' financial circumstances *and use it more effectively.***

Carsberg appeal, page 1
Weekend money, page 25



Maria Lumsden and her children outside the home she is buying with an endowment mortgage

Peril of payments that can rise too high

WHEN Walter and Maria Lumsden moved into their three-bedroom semi in Colchester they thought that their £50 000 low-start endowment mortgage would reap financial dividends in later life (Kathryn Knight writes).

The couple were first-time buyers in February 1990. Now, with the house worth only about £45,000, they find themselves with negative equity and bigger repayments than they expected. "When we decided to buy the house our estate agents referred us to the Halifax Building Society," said Mrs Lumsden, a part-time clerical supervisor. "They told us that as house prices were so high a low-start, career-related endowment mortgage was the best option for us. At the time it seemed to make sense."

The couple say that instead of paying a deposit on the house they were advised to put the money into an investment account, from which the repayments would be subsidised. They thought that part of that money would be used to pay the endowment policy premiums. They did not realise that for the first five years the building society would pay the premiums, after which they would have to take on that burden.

Others find an endowment mortgage suits them. Rachel Walker, 26, and Andy McCloud bought a £150,000 two-bedroom flat in London last year. Miss Walker, who changed from a repayment mortgage, said: "Long-term investments like this are prone to change, and I was aware of the negative press, but I was prepared to take the risk."

THE HOUSE BUYER

Policies do still have a role, insist lenders

Market value: endowment or repayment mortgage?

HOW lenders and insurers reacted to the OFT's salvo:

Halifax Building Society, the country's largest lender with 1.8 million borrowers, said: "We believe that, for many people, an endowment policy to repay a mortgage is still a very good option."

Yorkshire Building Society: "The thrust of the OFT's argument appears to be two or three years out of date and addresses issues that have largely been tackled by the industry."

Bradford & Bingley Building Society: "We believe the OFT report does not condemn endowment mortgages, but rather emphasises the need for good advice."

The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, many of whose members manage endowment funds, said: "The OFT has produced an excellent report highlighting the different mortgage repayment methods. The days of automatically taking on an endowment are over."

Lloyds Bank: "We believe in providing the most suitable means of repaying a mortgage whether it be endowment, repayment or other means."

Nationwide Building Society: "We are already implementing many of the suggestions in the OFT's report. There is no way that commission influences the advice our sales force gives."

National Westminster Bank: "We note the OFT's report with interest but we already offer a number of options to customers."

Woolwich Building Society: "We believe that endowments are still suitable for some people. To regard an endowment mortgage as a short-term contract, as the OFT report appears to have done, is misleading."

IFA Promotion, the trade body for independent financial advisers, said: "We hope that borrowers with endowment mortgages don't panic as a result of the report as virtually all policies will have sufficient value to pay the mortgage on maturity. It is essential that borrowers do not surrender their policies."

The Association of British Insurers: "With hindsight it is always easy to appear wise but endowments do have a place in a mortgage portfolio."

REACTION

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هكذا من الأصل

Protesters applaud chief constable as lorry carrying sheep is turned away from port

Animal exporters to go to court after police cut protection

By Lin Jenkins

A HAULAGE company is expected to challenge in court a police decision to turn back a lorry carrying sheep for live export bound for the port of Shoreham in West Sussex.

The driver was warned that if he continued there would not be enough police officers at the port, which was besieged by animal welfare protesters, to ensure the safety of his load or prevent a possible breach of the peace.

The move came after a warning by Paul Whitehouse, Chief Constable of Sussex, to the transporters International Traders Ferry Ltd that, because of the strain on resources, he would escort only four convoys per fortnight into Shoreham.

His ruling came into effect last Monday. Throughout the week seven to ten lorries a day were escorted into the harbour. But yesterday policing of Shoreham was reduced from about 300 officers to about a dozen. The company is seeking legal advice over the decision with a view to a legal challenge next week.

Along the front at Shoreham protesters, including one with a pet lamb, gave a cautious welcome to the police move. As the ferry *Northern Cruiser* arrived from Dieppe and slipped into her berth shortly after 8am they mounted their normal protest. But when no lorries arrived, some people drifted home while others stayed, convinced the lorries would arrive later.

Tony Lake, Assistant Chief Contable, said: "We announced new arrangements which were going to come into effect from Monday. We have been talking to the directors of ITF. The position of the police is quite clear and Today we did not mount a police operation on the scale we have previously done and when a lorry containing livestock was seen making its way to the port, it was stopped.

"Police officers explained the position in terms of numbers of demonstrators and that there were insufficient police officers on duty in Shoreham to ensure the safety of the convoy and also to prevent a possible breach of the peace."

The lorry driver was turned away about six miles from the port. Even after the *Northern Cruiser* slipped her berth and sailed away in the afternoon, some protesters remained on the seafront. Hilary Mann, a pensioner, had abandoned her usual placard after the actions of the chief constable. It had read: "A vile disgusting trade — assisted by Sussex Constabulary". "I will not carry that any more. The police do not really want to be here, they can't afford it. Some of them even cry or turn away when they see the sheep crammed in the lorries."

Betty Swift, who regularly makes the 90-minute journey with her retired husband from Croydon, south London, to join the protest, said she had never linked the police with the animal exporters. She carries a poster with the slogan: "Legally right, morally wrong". "I'm glad the police have taken this action. They can't choose what they police but I'm sure they don't want to be here every day, especially since they have not got the money.

"The people who pay for them would rather they were doing other work." However, she conceded that some of the protesters channelled all their anger in the direction of the police.

"I have had people tell me off for talking and joking with them. But nobody is going to tell me not to talk to a policeman," she said.

NIGEL BOWLES

A vet checks sheep on a lorry turned back six miles from Shoreham after police said they could not ensure safety

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Those about to die
"Tomorrow we go into action. No doubt it will be dangerous and many lives will be lost — mine may be one . . ."
THE LAST LETTERS HOME . . .
Heartbreakingly sad but uplifting too, they give a unique insight into the men who won the second world war
News Review — in The Sunday Times tomorrow

L-plates return for careless novices

By James Landale

IRRESPONSIBLE new drivers will be forced to surrender their licences and use L-plates again under a tough new law.

The Road Traffic (New Drivers) Bill, which passed its third reading without a vote yesterday, will put new drivers on probation for two years after taking their test. Drivers who get six or more penalty points during that period will have their licence downgraded to provisional and will be forced to take a new test.

Steven Norris, a junior transport minister, said: "The deterrent effect of having to use L-plates again and to be accompanied by an experienced driver should be sufficient to prevent newly qualified drivers from behaving irresponsibly and foolishly."

Joan Walley, for Labour, said the Bill had the full support of the Opposition.

Michael Clark, Tory MP for Rochford, who piloted the Bill through the Commons, said that 10 per cent of licence holders were under 21 but caused 25 per cent of accidents "My Bill will be humiliating for the macho male. Irresponsible drivers ... will be forced back to having L-plates until they pass again."

Liver man dies after 200-mile transfer

By A Staff Reporter

A MAN with liver failure died after he had to be taken by ambulance 200 miles from Surrey to Leeds because no intensive-care bed could be found closer.

The 39-year-old, who was semi-conscious, died after a liver transplant the next day. He was transferred from Frimley Park Hospital at Camberley, Surrey, to St James's Hospital, Leeds.

Dr Bob Bown, a consultant physician and gastroenterologist at Frimley Park, blamed the lack of resources being put into intensive-care services for the incident. "This patient might well have died despite the move but such a long journey certainly did not help," he said. "We tried a long list of hospitals — King's College, the Royal Free, Southampton, Birmingham, Cambridge — but the closest was Leeds."

Andrew Morris, Frimley Park chief executive, said there were problems finding a bed. "In the view of the consultant, so long as the patient was transferred to a specialist unit within 24 hours this was acceptable. This was done. I would not say there is a lack of resources."

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صورة من الاصل

Popularity of collecting Churchill on rise again

SINCE the end of the war, the enthusiasm for all things Churchillian has been growing; it was particularly marked after Churchill's death in 1965, slowed down somewhat during the Eighties and is now on the rise again.

It is not uncommon for politicians to publish books (as we know too well) but in producing 142 separate publications as well as winning the 1953 Nobel Prize for Literature, Winston Churchill will be seen to be singular. Fewer than 20 of Churchill's works are currently in print but assuming the budding collector could amass a complete set of first editions, he would have to find (in addition to a good deal of cash) about 18ft of shelving — twice that if the scores of biographies and histories of Churchill were to be included. To branch into associated items such as manuscript material, commemorative busts, paintings, ceramics and all the rest of it could well cause one's living-room and income to disappear.

If, however, space and money still remain there are always the paintings. Churchill painted largely from nature in the tradition of the Impressionists and in 1948 published a book self-effacingly entitled *Painting as a Pastime*. Critical opinion has always been high and a typical oil would now fetch at least £35,000.

Joseph Connolly, above, investigates the enthusiasm of collectors around the world for books by and about Britain's wartime leader, and his speeches, pamphlets and paintings — not to mention minor memorabilia

The quality of the books, tracts, speeches and pamphlets is variable but purist collectors of Churchilliana are less concerned with any particular work's nature (some of the early political essays are dull) than with its rarity.

David Mayou is a London-based specialist dealer who currently has in stock a good first edition of Churchill's very first book, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* (1898) at £2,750. This is not the scarcest Churchill item: that accolade goes to an arcane volume of speeches entitled *Mr Broderick's Army* (1903) — almost certainly a vanity publication and printed at 187 Piccadily, today the address of Hatchard's. This small book is of legendary rarity and would fetch £15,000-£20,000. By contrast, Churchill's final publication — the 1961 volume of speeches *The Unwritten Alliance* — is worth about £45.

Among the early works is the 1900 curiosity *Savrola*, Churchill's sole and not very scintillating novel. A good first edition might fetch £400, though a second impression would be worth no more than £20. Two other sought-after early titles are his fourth book *London to Ladysmith via Pretoria* (1900) and *My African Journey* (1908) — a first edition of either will fetch £400-£500.

Although Churchill's signature in itself is not particularly rare, its presence on a first edition or a typed letter or speech hugely affects the value. A good example is the six-volume work *The Second World War* (which appeared between 1948 and 1954) or the four-volume *A History of the English Speaking Peoples* (which appeared between 1956 and 1958). Neither work is in itself scarce, though these days a fine set of either in clean dust-wrappers might fetch £120; with just volume one signed, however, the set's value leaps to £1,500. A typed and signed letter of no consequence would realise at least £600 but if the content is truly eye-opening, £10,000 would be nearer the mark. Last December Sotheby's achieved a world record price of £36,700 for the heavily annotated eight-page typescript draft of the El Alamein speech ("This is not the end ... But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."): the Imperial War Museum bought it.

Churchill produced 142 publications and won the Nobel Prize for Literature. A painting by him fetches £35,000

As to the much publicised Churchill archive, Mr Mayou is convinced that there are five individuals in the world and countless institutions, not all of them American, who would happily have paid £25 million for it. The individual speeches ("Never in the field of human conflict . . .") would each fetch £100,000 and rising.

Churchill enthusiasts are also desperate for the ceramics, the key-rings, the badges, the bottle openers, the photographs. Many of the fans come from America. "Although," according to Sotheby's, "we get a great deal of interest from both Germany and Japan."

David Mayou's stock may be viewed by appointment (Telephone 0181-992 4335)

ROYALTIES

ROYALTIES from Sir Winston Churchill's books amount to little more than £20,000 a year (Dalya Alberge writes).

"They're bringing in peanuts compared to the untold riches of the lottery sale," one publishing source said. "Churchill is kept in print because of who he was, not because he is making a packet for publishers."

Penguin and Cassell are Churchill's main publishers. Penguin sells about 500 copies a year of the six-volume history of the Second World War. Cassell's four-volume paperback of the *History of the English Speaking Peoples*, 1956-58, sells fewer than 1,000 copies a year. Penguin's best-selling Churchill book, at about 1,700 copies a year, is the condensed edition of *The Second World War* in one volume, first published in 1990.

Michael Shaw, a director of Curtis Brown, the literary agents who handle Churchill's estate, said that royalty income for the family was small partly because Churchill accepted outright payments for some of his work.

Heritage fund chief defends buying archive

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

LORD ROTHSCHILD, the chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Lottery Fund, said yesterday that he was "absolutely unrepentant" about the use of £11.5 million lottery money to buy Sir Winston Churchill's papers.

The cost of the archives, to be spread over three years, represented only about 2 per cent of the fund's expected annual income of £200 million, he said. "Our problem was that if we let the papers go to auction and they then left the country, there would have been an outcry. People would have said, 'You have all this lottery money, why don't you save Churchill's papers?' People would see it as a disgrace."

Like the four other good causes designated as lottery beneficiaries — arts, sport, charities and millennium celebrations — the Heritage Memorial Fund's board decides how money will be spent. It comprises experts in the field chosen by the Prime Minister.

The board includes Sir Richard Carew Pole, a trustee of the Tate Gallery, Lord Crathorne, chairman of the Georgian Group, and Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the TSB group and president of the British Bankers' Association.

The Arts Council National Lottery Board includes Sir David Puttnam, the film producer, and Cleo Laine, the jazz singer, while the Sports Council lottery panel includes Trevor Brooking, the former England footballer, and Adrian Moorhouse, the Olympic swimmer.

Members of the Millennium Commission are nominated by the Queen. The Lottery Act says the commission must include two government ministers (Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, and Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade), and a nominee of the leader of the Opposition. The National Lottery Charities Board is appointed by the Home Office and is chaired by David Sieff, a director of Marks & Spencer.

Churchill defence, page 1
Letters, page 17
Poor young Winston, Weekend page 1

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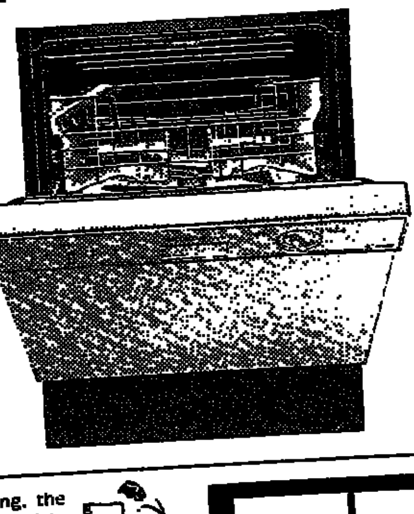

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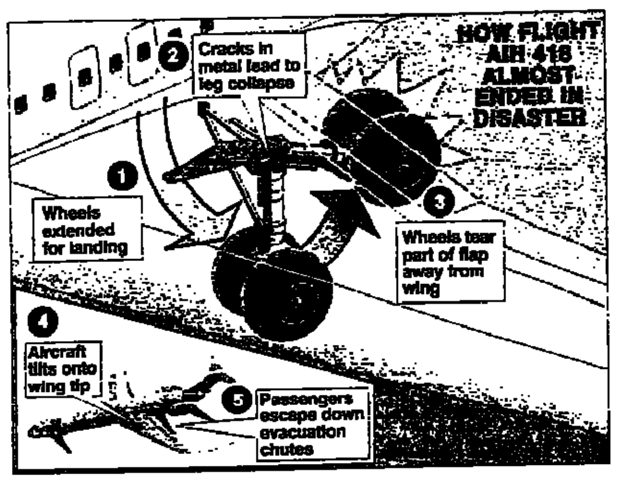
TEXAS HOMECARE

171 passengers and crew escape as undercarriage collapses after Las Palmas flight

Holiday jet's crash landing blamed on cracked support

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent


HOW FLIGHT AIH 418 ALMOST ENDED IN DISASTER
1 Wheels extended for landing
2 Cracks in metal lead to leg collapse
3 Wheels tear part of flap away from wing
4 Aircraft tilts onto wing tip
5 Passengers escape down evacuation chutes

UNDETECTED cracks in a high-strength metal attachment for a holiday jet's undercarriage were being blamed last night after the packed charter plane crash-landed at Manchester Airport.

Accident investigators were quickly able to establish that the port shock strut — a cylinder filled with hydraulic fluid that acts like a giant shock absorber — had failed near its attachment to the wing of the Airtours McDonnell Douglas MD-83.

As the wing tipped towards the ground, the twin wheels on the American-made undercarriage twisted upwards, slamming into the half-deployed flaps and ripping out a large section of the wing near the fuselage.

The 171 passengers on board the aircraft, which was making an early-morning landing after a four-hour flight from Las Palmas, had only a few seconds to react as the wing gouged a deep trench in the runway before the aircraft came to a halt.

Passengers and the seven crew slid down the aircraft's emergency chutes as fire crews covered the jet with foam. Five passengers, including a pregnant woman, received minor bruising.

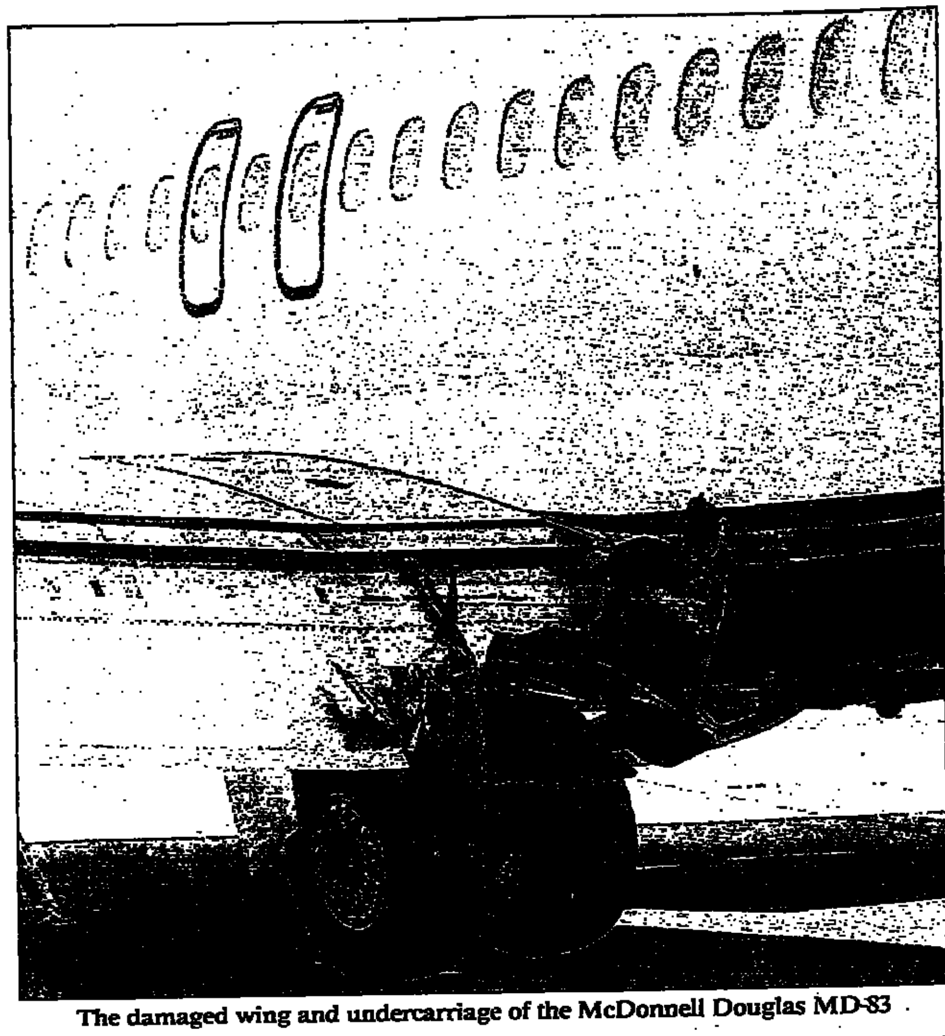
By mid-morning a senior McDonnell Douglas engineer and a team from the air accident investigation branch at Farnborough, Hampshire, were able to warn operators of the MD-83 across the world to check the metal around the top of the shock struts for signs of cracks. Apart from the seven operated by Airtours, no other MD-83s are on the British register.

Collapse of a main undercarriage is rare and is usually caused by imperfections in the metal or incorrect forging during the manufacturing process.

The investigators will want to establish which factory made the part that failed and when and how it was inspected. They will also want to study the history of the particular aircraft and whether it had made any "hard" landings.

Flight AIH 418 had had no indication of trouble and the two flightdeck crew had checked that three green lights on the instrument panel indicated that the landing gear was properly deployed. The four-year-old jet made a perfect touchdown. The pilots put the two rear-mounted engines into reverse thrust and began to withdraw the flaps. The aircraft slowed to about 30 mph when, according to one passenger, "it seemed we had had a puncture and the wing dropped to the left".

The airport was closed for several hours as the aircraft remained on the sole runway before being moved.


The damaged wing and undercarriage of the McDonnell Douglas MD-83

Bamber's life-term challenge rejected

Jeremy Bamber, jailed for life in 1986 for murdering five members of his family, failed yesterday in his High Court challenge to the decision in 1988 by Douglas Hurd, who was Home Secretary, that he should remain in prison for the rest of his life.

In a ruling which is important for 15 other murderers who have been told they will never be released from jail, Mr Justice Popplewell said that Mr Hurd had not acted unlawfully or unreasonably. This appears to end any prospect of the 15 receiving more information on why they must remain in jail for life. The judge said that Mr Hurd had given "ample reasons" for the decision over Bamber.

Drug killed baby

A mother and her lover were convicted of killing her baby girl by giving her methadone to stop her crying. Andrew Chapman, 27, was jailed for 2½ years and Rachael Page, 23, for 18 months at the Old Bailey. The couple, from Uxbridge, also admitted cruelty to her son.

Drivers fined

Five foreign drivers have been fined a total of £4,060 by Milton Keynes magistrates for breaking traffic regulations. Of 35 Continental-registered lorries stopped on the M1, 24 were being driven illegally. Another five drivers will appear before magistrates later.

Blackmail bid

A man who demanded £5,000 from a supermarket after claiming he had injected insecticide into products was jailed for nine months at Winchester Crown Court. David Davies, 43, of Gosport, Hampshire, who was heavily in debt, was arrested as he tried to collect the money from a phone box.

Marbles for sale

Two missing marbles intended for Marble Arch in London are expected to fetch £125,000 at auction at Sotheby's in London next month. The marbles were part of an historical narrative frieze celebrating the victories of Wellington and Nelson and were to go round the top of the monument.

Rickshaw snag

Oxford's plans for a tourist rickshaw service have been delayed by an objection from Balliol College. It says that a setting-down point outside its gates would add to its excess of visitors and is "bordering on a Disneyland scenario". The city council is to negotiate over the stop.

Farmer wins cheese reprieve

By Michael Hornsby

ONE of Scotland's best-known cheese-makers won a reprieve yesterday in a long legal fight to save his product from being condemned as unfit to eat.

A Court of Session judge in Edinburgh overruled a justice of the peace in Lanark who last month ordered the destruction of a ton of Lanark Blue, worth £27,000, made by Humphrey Errington at his farm in Dunsyre, Strathclyde.

Lord Weir said that Mr Errington had been "denied natural justice" because the JP, Elizabeth Wilson, had refused to allow cross-examination of expert witnesses who said that the cheese was contaminated by the bacteria *Listeria monocytogenes*. Witnesses for Mr Errington had said that no case of human listeriosis had been linked to Lanark Blue or any other blue cheese.

Clydesdale District Council said that Lord Weir's decision was a technicality. Robert Russell, director of environmental health, said: "We intend to appeal. We are 100 per cent sure of our case and the cheese remains banned from sale."

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WHICH
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Times reporters overcame the censors to bring theatre of war to life for their readers

How our special correspondents won war of words

By Alan Hamilton

WAR, and the way it is reported, changed out of all recognition in the 90 years between the Charge of the Light Brigade and D-Day. From the point of view of the war correspondent, it did not necessarily change for the better.

William Howard Russell roamed the Crimea for *The Times*, not much troubled by military censors or restrictions on his movements. By the Second World War, correspondents were attached to armies, wore uniforms, were shepherded about by conducting officers, and had to submit their every written word to the military censor. Truth, if not a downright casualty, at times became a scarcity.

To report so many theatres of conflict in the Second World War, *The Times* had to field a substantial team of correspondents, many of them from backgrounds of parliamentary reporting, tennis writing and other disciplines remote from gunfire. They performed with distinction, often with brilliance, but invariably behind the complete anonymity of "By our special correspondent". Not for them the household familiarity enjoyed by the radio voices of Dimbleby and Vaughan Thomas.

Russell: man in Crimea

Their doyen was Robert Cooper, who began at *The Times* as a shorthand typist and went on to cover almost the entire conflict, from the British Expeditionary Force, through the Middle and Far East to the D-Day landings, maintaining a constant stream of fine, flowing descriptive prose. He railed constantly against military censorship, and partially blamed it for the disaster of Dunkirk. Back in England, he was free to write: "Probably the greatest blunder of all was the absurd belief fostered in the public mind that the Maginot Line extended from the Channel to the Mediterranean."

Perhaps his greatest triumph, however, was a year's sustained and detailed reporting of the Nuremberg war trials. His summaries were so precise and lucid that they were frequently used as quick reference by leading counsel. They never worked out how Cooper did it, given that he rarely troubled to attend the courtroom before mid-afternoon.

Cooper shared reporting of the BEF with a highly regarded young reporter, whom we rapidly lost to the Foreign Office. His new masters regarded his work as far too important for him to return. Had there been bylines in those days, his would have read H. A. R. Philby.

All war correspondents dream of escaping under the wire of military censorship and finding the great exclusive story. Christopher Lumby did just that while attached to the US Fifth Army in northern Italy in April 1945. Borrowing a jeep and driver, he journeyed through 200 treacherous miles of German-occupied territory to reach Milan, which he found to his astonishment to be in the hands of partisans.

They asked if he would accompany them to a village to identify a body. There were, in fact, two bodies — those of Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci. Lumby drove back to American lines to file the scoop of his life, and to tell an incredulous American general that Milan had already fallen.

Correspondents, however brilliant, know that their masters are never satisfied. John Prince, covering Patton's breakneck advance to the Rhine, received a cable of stiff reprimand from *The Times*: "Thanks for efforts but messages deplorably belated stop only remnants usable stop please file concise situation report urgentwise afternoonly stop."

Prince replied that Patton was moving so fast, the radio used to file to *The Times* was always either being set up, on the road, or taken down. The office then sent Prince a message complaining that his expenses were too high.

Penny-pinching was perhaps an excusable feature of *The Times* foreign department, given the number of staff they had to keep in the field. Moscow correspondent Ralph Parker had his knuckles rapped from London: "Your tendency is usually over-cabling. In present world conditions, quantity isn't as virtuous as crisp illumination."

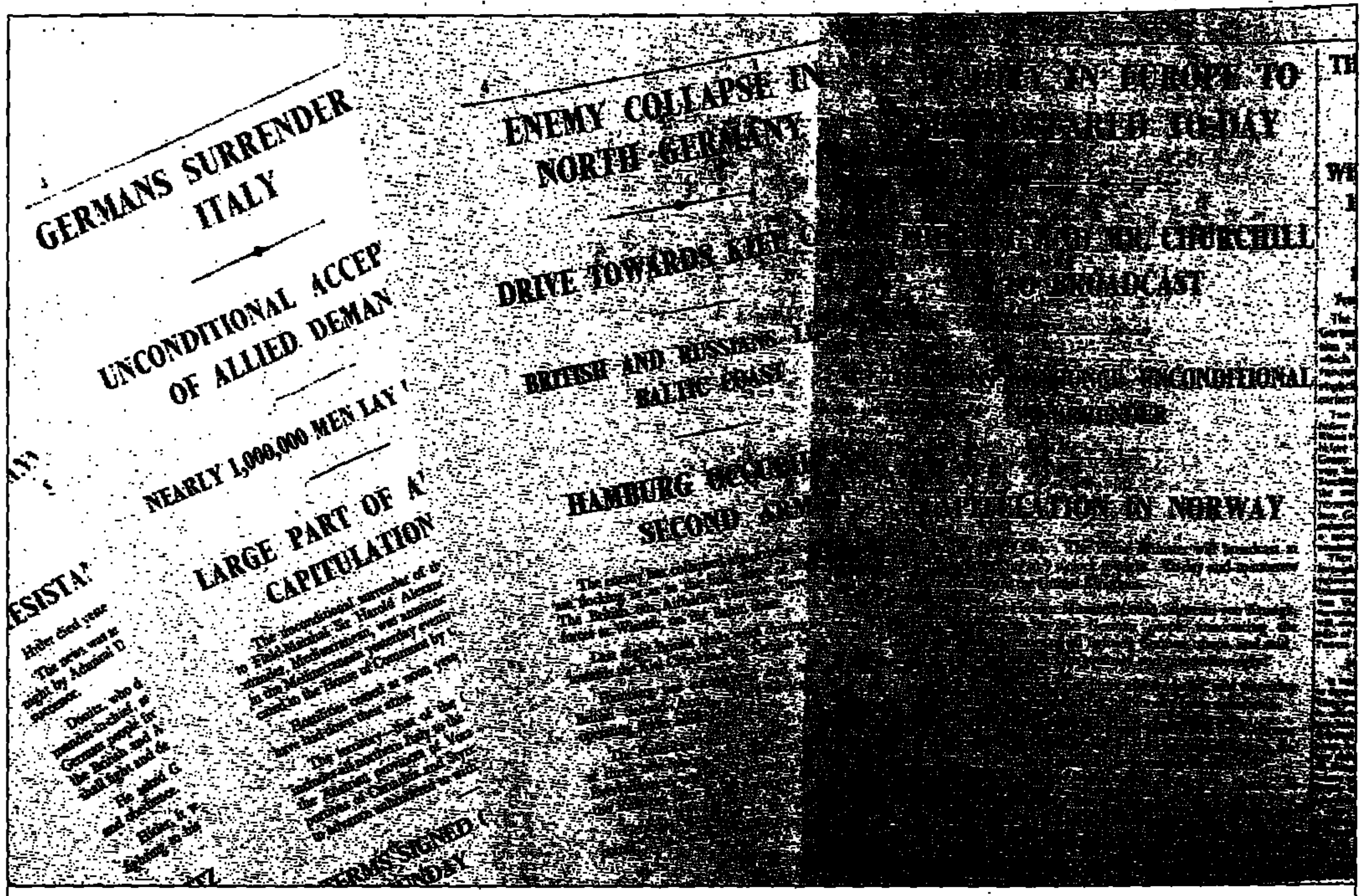
Times photographers had their troubles too, complaining that at the big shows like D-Day the American cameramen also got the favoured positions. The pencil-written diary of Eric Greenwood, distinguished *Times* war photographer, is a catalogue of frustration for June 6, 1944. He was not allowed off his landing ship during the first wave of assault, and the word "telephoto" written beside every other shot in his exposure record speaks volumes. His colleague, Bill Warhurst, was more fortunate, cruising into the ruins of Rouen well ahead of the advancing troops, and guarded by two French *résistants* who were delighted to see him.

We lost no correspondents or photographers on *Times* duty, although Jerôme Caminada, our man in Brussels, was taken prisoner by the advancing Wehrmacht. But we did lose many of our staff on active service. Of 1,570 employees at the war's outbreak, 584 joined the Armed Forces during its course and 30 did not return. Those who survived collected, among many other decorations, one Military Cross, three DFCs and one DSC.

The Times even had its own Home Guard platoon, with Colonel Astor, the paper's proprietor, in the Captain Mainwaring role, and his *Rolls* painted in the Astor racing colours of blue and black as platoon transport. The unit, with a reputation as one of the most efficient in the entire service, had the allotted task in the event of invasion of fending off Nazi paratroopers from the office roofs of Queen Victoria Street.

Churchill, an occasional critic of *The Times* because of what he perceived as Leftish tendencies in its outlook, took a kinder view on November 25, 1944, when the paper published its 50,000th issue. "Few journals can display so notable a record or may so justly be acclaimed as an outstanding example of the virtues of a free press," he wrote to the proprietor.

The old man must have softened the management's heart, for soon afterwards they allowed Robert Cooper, reporting from Normandy, a ten-shilling increase in his daily expenses.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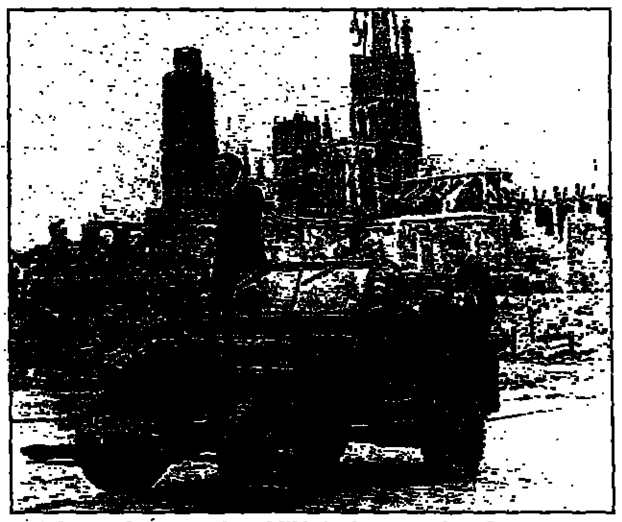
RESISTA

A selection of main news pages from *The Times* of one of the most momentous weeks in the 20th century. Next week, in the final run-up to the commemoration of VE Day, *The Times* celebrates by returning to its past. Beginning on Monday, we shall each day reproduce our main news page from 50 years ago. Seven days from the death of Hitler to the proclamation that the war in Europe was at an end encompassed surrender in Italy, enemy collapse in north Germany, German surrender in northwest Europe, and Admiral Dönitz's capitulation on all fronts.

It is a unique contemporary record, as reported by the pre-eminent daily newspaper of its time. Throughout next week, present-day *Times* writers will examine and interpret the war's last days. On Monday, we review the circumstances of Hitler's last days in the bunker and consider his enduring hold on the world's imagination. During the week and culminating next weekend, *The Times* will give the fullest coverage to the events, both official and informal, marking 50 years of peace in Europe. Today, to introduce our series of historic pages, we look at *The Times*'s own war — how, in spite of bombing, it never missed a single issue, and who the anonymous correspondents were who wrote instant but enduring history from the front lines.



Times photographer Bill Warhurst arrives in Rouen with members of the Resistance, ahead of the troops

Luftwaffe scores direct hit but presses roll again in minutes

By Alan Hamilton

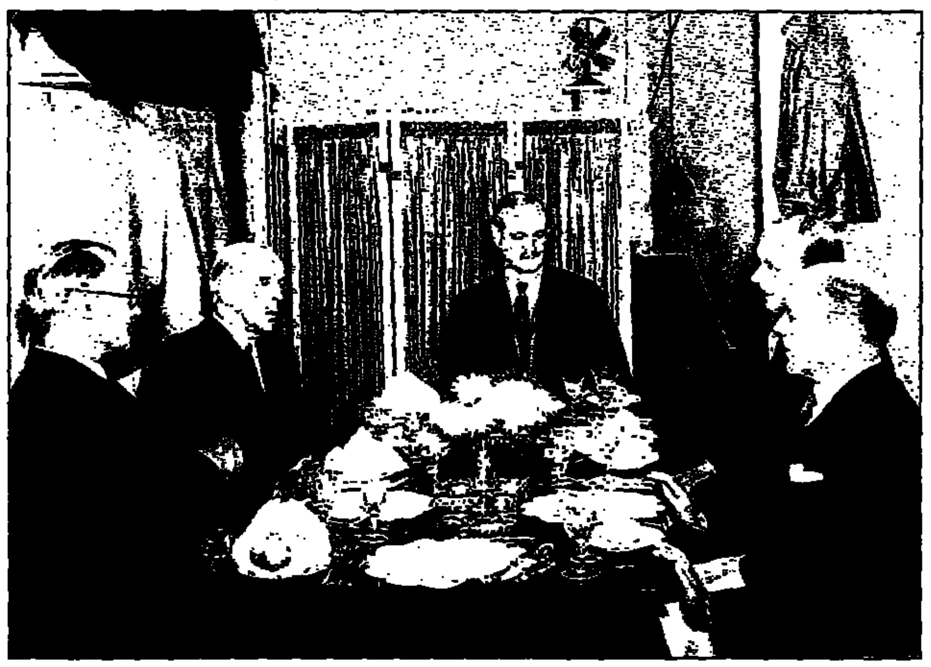
IN LATE September 1940 *The Times*, in common with other newspapers around the world, received a report from the official German News Agency crowing with delight that "one of the workshops for the distortion of the truth in London nearly disappeared from the surface of the globe".

As a story, *The Times* chose to ignore it, although it knew the true facts better than anyone. The workshop in question was our own office at Printing House Square in the City, and the propagandist claim of near-disappearance was caused by the direct hit of a German bomb just as the presses were rolling with that night's edition, and with 300 people in the building.

The spotter on the roof saw a German bomber approach at 1.50am and heard the whistle of bombs "as close as breathing". The building was filled with smoke and dust and a large hole had been blown in its front wall. Colonel John J. Astor, the proprietor asleep in the boardroom, was both stirred and shaken. The lights went out and the darkness was filled with the smell of escaping gas. Briefly there was confusion but miraculously no serious injury.

The Times was well prepared. It had the best air raid precautions and self-defence drill of any organisation in the City. Journalists and printers had become grudgingly used to a subterranean nightlife in the cramped basement press room, writing on any flat surface big enough to take a typewriter. Eighteen minutes after the explosion, the presses were turning again to complete the night's run of 189,000 copies.

Not a word of the incident appeared in the paper. There were more important matters to report on scarce newsprint. Churchill dashed off a note to the proprietor: "None of your readers could discover from the paper that your editorial and management departments have been destroyed. The resourcefulness and adaptability of your staff are beyond praise."

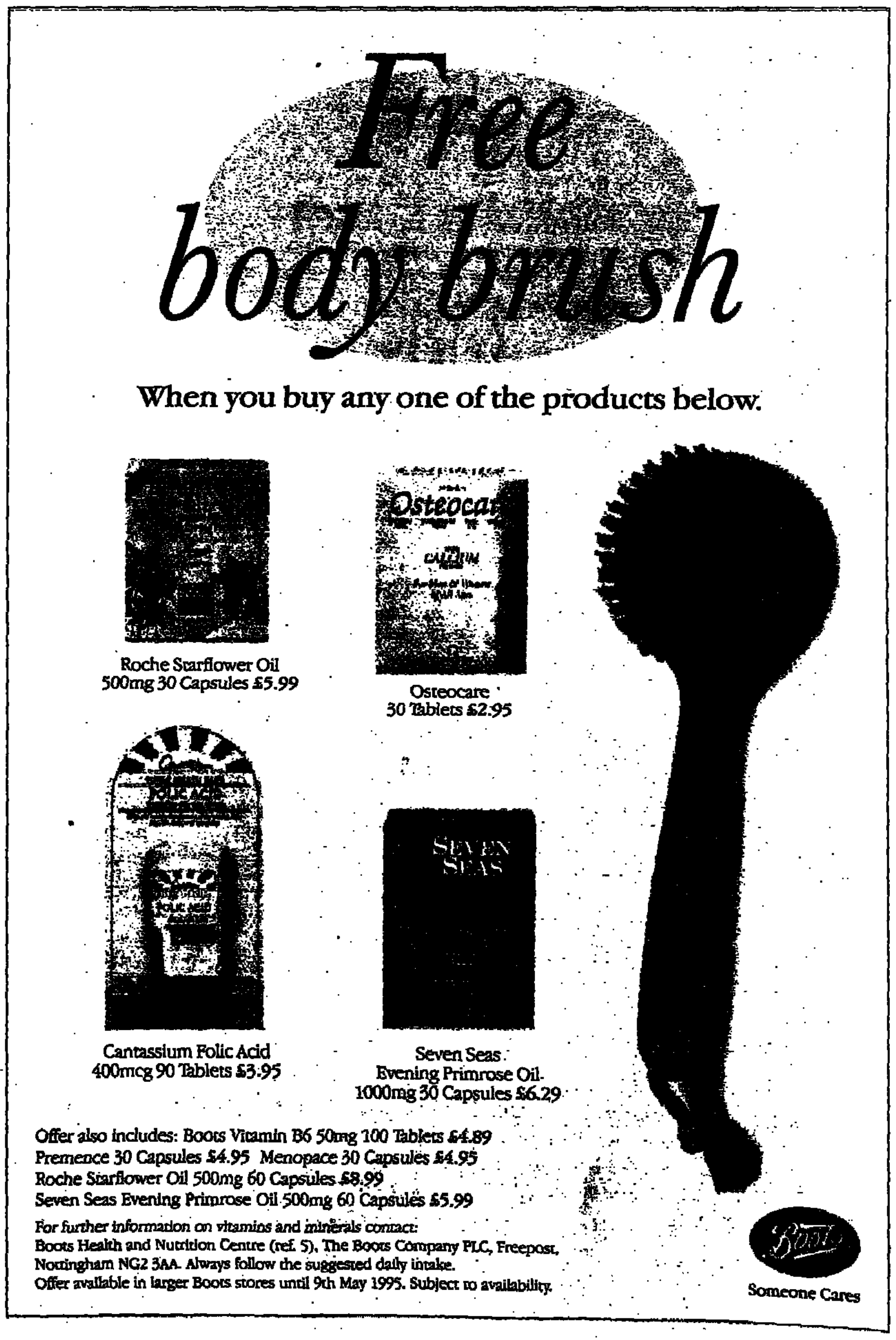


Colonel John J. Astor, centre, proprietor, chairs a meeting in the air raid shelter at Printing House Square; Geoffrey Dawson, *The Times* Editor, is on his left

Had the Luftwaffe succeeded in wiping the workshop of distortion from the face of the globe, *The Times* would have employed its standby arrangement to print at the *Evening Standard* near by in Fleet Street. Had the invader taken the capital, *The Times* would have taken to the deep countryside, to be produced on the presses of the *Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph* in hopefully unoccupied Kettering. But those arrangements were never called upon. Throughout the war, the paper never missed an edition.

More than bombs, *The Times*'s greatest wartime enemy was the shortage of imported newsprint, which in the early years of the conflict was severely rationed. The size of the paper was cut from 16 pages to 12, then to 10.

As the war progressed, the situation eased. After D-Day the presses of Printing House Square also rolled out the *Stars And Stripes*, newspaper of the US Army. For an august journal then 160 years old, taking in such a brash lodger was a bold move: some of our older gentlemen journalists, seeing for the first time the near-naked glamour *pin-ups* published for the delectation of the GIs, looked as though a bomb had hit them.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Vatican ruling on ordination of Anglican converts expected within weeks

Married clergymen take step closer to Catholic priesthood

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Roman Catholic Church in England could soon have married priests with children working full-time in parishes.

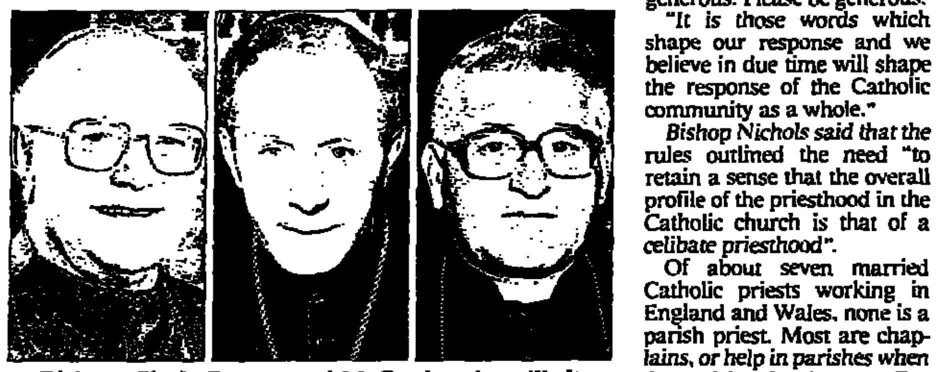
Rules to allow the ordination of married former Anglican clergy as Roman Catholic priests were submitted to the Pope yesterday by the Catholic bishops of England and Wales. Approval of the statutes, drawn up at the bishops' conference Low Week meeting this week, could come from the Vatican within a few weeks.

According to the latest figures, 265 serving clergy have resigned since the first women were ordained priests last spring. A further 39 have said they expect to go.

The resignations have cost the church, in a financial crisis because of heavy losses incurred by the investment policies of the Church Commissioners, £2.3 million to February this year under provisions agreed for those who resigned over the issue of women priests. A further £3.9 million has been set aside to cover the cost of resignations until February next year.

No figures are yet available for the number of married former Anglican clergy seeking to become Catholic priests, although about 250 single and married former clergy, some retired, have already converted to Catholicism.

Details of the new statutes, under which a commission of three bishops will consider applications, were disclosed by the Catholic Media Office. The three are the Right Rev Dr Alan Clark, Bishop of East Anglia, the Right Rev John Brewer, Bishop of Lancaster, and the Right Rev Leo McCartie, Bishop of Northampton.



Bishops Clark, Brewer and McCartie, who will sit on the commission dealing with applications

The Right Rev Vincent Nichols, area bishop in north London, said: "In our discussion it became perfectly clear that the bishops' conference was of one mind and one heart in looking forward to welcoming numbers of married Anglican clergy, their wives and in some cases their children too.

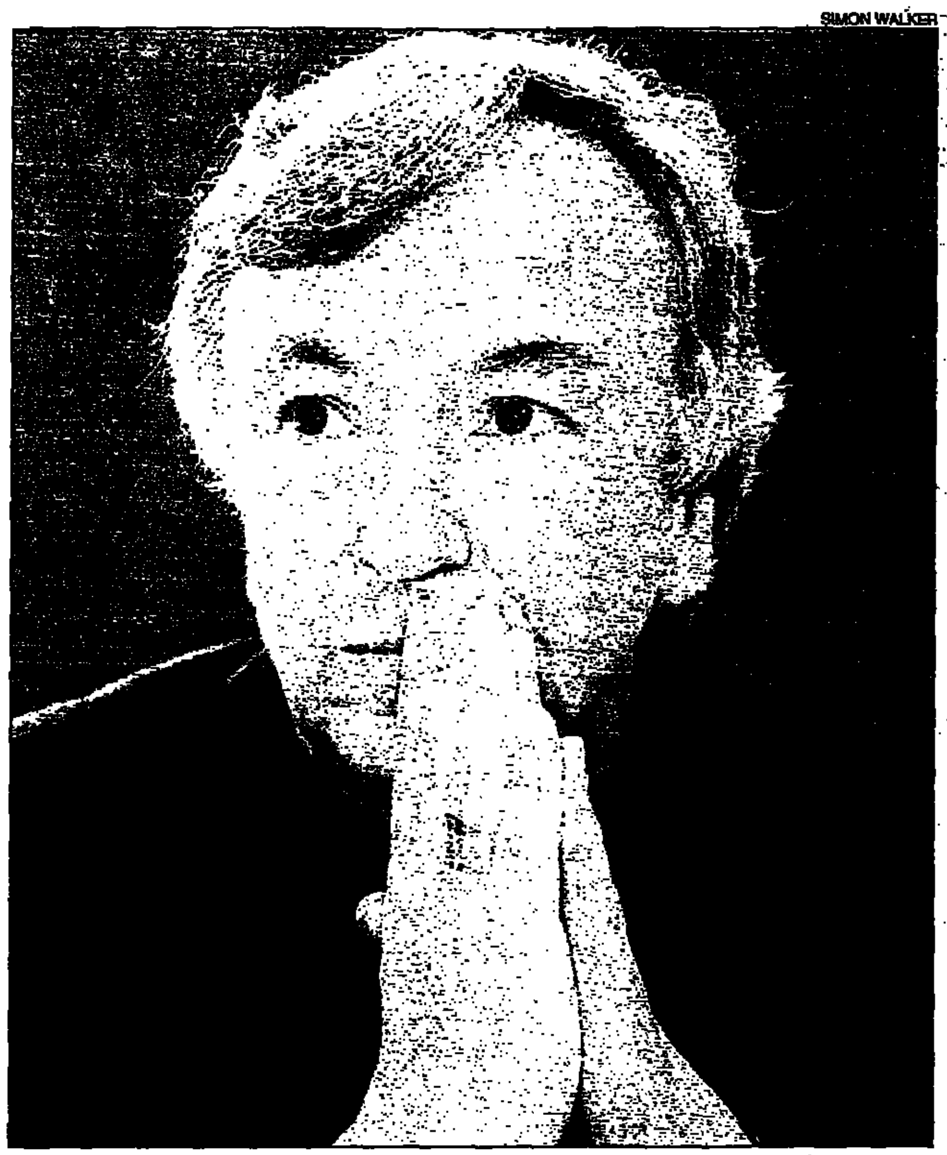
"We recalled words spoken to Cardinal Hume [Archbishop of Westminster] by the Holy Father. I was sitting there rather timidly at the corner of the table when the Pope said to the Cardinal: 'With such men you must be generous. Please be generous.'

"It is those words which shape our response and we believe in due time will shape the response of the Catholic community as a whole."

Bishop Nichols said that the rules outlined the need "to retain a sense that the overall profile of the priesthood in the Catholic church is that of a celibate priesthood".

Of about seven married Catholic priests working in England and Wales, none is a parish priest. Most are chaplains, or help in parishes when the parish priest is away. But that could change with an influx of married clergy under the new rules. Bishop Nichols said: "I would fully expect married priests to be working in parishes, although we would not be giving to them all the full canonical responsibilities that go with the role of parish priest. That is out of sensitivity to the feelings of the Catholic community."

In effect, this means the former Anglicans could become assistants or curates in a parish but might be barred from carrying out confirmations or marriage ceremonies. Bishop Nichols made it clear that the new rules would not lead to Catholic priests being allowed to marry. Also, if the wife of a married Catholic priest were to die, he would not be free to marry again.



SIMON WALKER

Bishop Nichols: looking forward to welcoming married clergy and their families

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

Education and the path of man to Christ

Dr Geoffrey Rowell

In the mid-17th century a young man from Hereford went up to Oxford. When he was a boy, his imagination had been kindled by a sense of the world aglow with the presence of God — the corn was "orient and immortal wheat", boys and girls playing were like "strange, seraphic pieces of fire". The world seemed held in a deep, resonant unity.

As he grew up, and learnt the "dirty devices" of the world, that unitive meaning seemed to fall apart, and at university he found his tutors teaching their subjects as unrelated to each other. "I found no tutor that would teach felicity", the source of meaning and the wisdom of the spiritual life.

About two centuries later another young man came up to Oxford. He had had a religious experience at the age of 15, which he called his "great change of thought". He was conscious of "two and two only absolutely and luminously self-evident realities, myself and my Creator". Later, he was to write of the unity of vision of the child, which academic analysis would destroy.

The first young man was Thomas Traherne, the second John Henry Newman.

Traherne's *Centuries of Meditation* is a richly evocative exploration of a spirituality centred on the love of God manifested in creation and in the Passion of Christ. There he found again the unitive vision he sought and that "felicity", which he found no tutor at Oxford to teach him. In recent years, Traherne has been recognised as one whose world-affirming vision and reverence for creation can speak to our own generation.

For Newman, education and the relationship of faith and reason were central concerns. Education was more than "useful knowledge", and "useful knowledge" not the same as wisdom. The issue was not about faith as such but about that in which you put your faith.

When he became a Cardinal, Newman took as his motto a phrase of St Francis de Sales, *Cor ad cor loquitur* — "Heart speaks to heart". It was of a piece he wrote when newly ordained by the Church of England — "The Gospel is a spirit dwelling within us, and we only communicate it as we give out ourselves the while."

Faith and wisdom are only communicated as they are personally lived and communicated. True education is always the communication of a personal vision; and true education is concerned not just with information but with virtue and not just with morality but with a religious reverence for truth, and for God, the unifying source of all truth.

Traherne and Newman point us to a concern for spiritual values — something at the heart of all true education, for education is not just about techniques of instruction, or imparting information, it is about enabling us to become truly and fully human.

For the Christian, the heart of what it is to be human lies in an openness to the God whose very being is a communion of love. Christ, who is the Word of God, the communicator and communication of that love, is the Word made flesh, the one who in his life, death, and resurrection teaches us what this means.

Our human calling is "to grow up in all things into Christ", who was for Traherne the true tutor who imparted the wisdom of felicity, and for Newman the one who "in the garden secretly and on the cross on high" teaches and inspires us by his generous and sacrificial love.

The Right Rev Dr Geoffrey Rowell is Bishop of Basingstoke.

Pupils given wrong drug injection test

A SCHOOL nurse has been suspended and an inquiry launched after 41 schoolchildren were given the wrong drug in a vaccination test.

Pupils at Heaton Manor School, Newcastle upon Tyne, were due to be given mild doses of tuberculosis to see if they needed booster injections but were given instead a test for tetanus. The children were seen by a doctor soon after the error was discovered but none developed any symptoms or required time off school.

Linda Lyons, deputy chief executive of Newcastle City Health Trust said: "It was a serious error because of the number of children involved. But I would reassure parents that clinically the effect it has on children is minor. However, we accept that if something else had been used the consequences could have been much more serious."

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Fear of scandal forces Kohl to call for truce between squabbling security agencies

Ex-Stasi spies set up job club

BONN FILE

by ROGER BOYES

THE sight of some 100 black-clad spies shuffling behind the coffin of Günter Guillaume, the spy whose activities toppled Willy Brandt as West German Chancellor in 1974, has revived suspicions that former East German agents have established an informal old boys' network.

"It's a mutual job-finding agency rather than a veterans' club," says one intelligence insider. "More strings are being pulled by retired Stasi men than by the Berlin Philharmonic." Private security companies and detective agencies are not squeamish about hiring the spies beached by German unification. Bugging adulterers is, after all, not so very different from monitoring political dissidents. Younger Stasi officers have been headhunted by Middle Eastern intelligence services. Old-timers reminisce in a Berlin pub not far from the site of the Wall.

Sometimes the defunct Stasi seems to be better organised than the active German agencies, the accident-prone Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND) espionage service and the plodding equivalent of the MI5, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution. The BND has recently been accused of mounting an operation to trap plutonium smugglers from Russia. Konrad Porzner, the agency's head, plausibly denies knowledge of the operation, which appears to have been run by Section 11a of the First Department, a unit responsible for monitoring international crime. The unit is notoriously close to Bernd Schmidbauer, the Chancellery's smooth and permanently suntanned security adviser, who now fears for his job. Two of his predecessors slipped out of office because of bungled security matters and both are now in political oblivion. Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, will not allow his office to be brushed with scandal so close to the end of his career.

Herr Kohl has called on Herr Porzner and Herr Schmidbauer, who dislike each other, to call a truce. The Chancellor has also put a brake on a long-planned overhaul of top security personnel. Any heads rolling in the BND at present would look like an admission of wrongdoing on the plutonium affair.

Until now the plan had been to replace Herr Porzner, a Social Democrat bureaucrat, with Eckhart Werthebach, the head of the counter-espionage service and much more to the liking of the Chancellery. The BND would be given a more tightly focused mission, Social Democrats would be weeded out of the top ranks, and both intelligence services would be rejuvenated. The plan would have also given Mathilde Koller a high profile deputy directorship. Frau Koller, who has successfully purged Stasi agents in Saxony, is a beneficiary of the "Stella Rimington factor" — a growing awareness that women should not be pigeon-holed as archivists or researchers.

However, all this has been put on hold. The Chancellor survived a rash of scandals in 1993 with a run of ministerial resignations, but he has a much reduced majority in parliament and is correspondingly vulnerable.

Günther Guillaume, who was mourned by ex-Stasi agents

Dreary MPs are taken as read

INITIAL problems of acoustics in the German parliament building have been solved, but nothing has been done to improve the quality of the speeches, which even the deputies admit is at an all-time low.

Parliamentary managers are now wondering whether to introduce penalties for boring speakers. In 1903 the Reichstag banned deputies from reading prepared texts. The rule still applies but is never enforced and leaden recitals are the norm.

If the speeches improved, the attendance record might not be so bleak. When ministers were sworn in last November, 95 out of 651 deputies were missing. Burkhard Hirsch, the deputy Speaker, has suggested that parliament should suspend its activities if fewer than 100 deputies are present.

Crime wave washes over able seaman

MARTIN BANGEMANN, the European Commissioner and former German Economics Minister, has had his car stolen twice in Gdansk, Poland. One limousine was stolen at night. The second, an armour-plated BMW, was taken from outside his hotel in daylight, but was found two days later, minus some important documents.

The biggest puzzle is what Herr Bangemann was doing in Gdansk. The German Commissioner is an active traveller, with talks in Tokyo and Washington, lecture tours around Germany, and a weekend cottage in France, but Gdansk?

One reason could be that when Herr Bangemann approached the end of his first term as a Commissioner he expected to be replaced, and planned to sail around the world with friends. A fine yacht was designed and building began in Gdansk, but Herr Bangemann was reappointed to the Commission of Jacques Santer and he had to withdraw from the project.

However, the Commissioner, who doodles shapes of ships on his blotter at conferences, still feels drawn to the vessel and apparently takes the opportunity to sniff the Baltic air and yearn for the simple life on deck.

Postwar expulsions regretted by Poles

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

POLAND yesterday made an astonishing concession to Germany and came close to apologising for the forced expulsion of Germans from eastern territories after the Second World War.

The statement by Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, the Polish Foreign Minister, earned enthusiastic applause from German deputies who had crowded into parliament to hear the specially arranged commemorative speech. His presence was partly the result of clumsy diplomacy between Bonn and Warsaw. The Poles had signalled their readiness to send President Walesa to Berlin for the May 8 celebrations to mark the end of the war in 1945 as a grand gesture of reconciliation.

But Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, decided not to invite Mr Walesa because he said he would then have had to invite every country invaded by the Germans. Mr Bartoszewski, a former concentration camp inmate and a fluent German speaker, was seen as an appropriate compromise. The minister deplored "the tragedy of the forced migrations", a term that could apply equally to the Poles thrown out of their homes by the Red Army in the East and the Germans dislodged from what became western Poland. "We remember that innumerable people from the German population were affected, and that Poles were among the perpetrators. I will say this openly: we deplore the individual fates and suffering of individual Germans who were hit by the consequences of the war and who lost their homes."

This was the clearest Polish statement on the issue since German and Polish bishops appealed for mutual forgiveness in 1965. In Germany, which is dwelling on its suffering, and debating whether May 8 was a day of liberation or defeat, the words were regarded as a breakthrough. About 11 million Germans were expelled from the East and they still carry influence in Bonn.

The bulk of the speech catalogued Germany's cruel treatment of Poland and the contribution of 600,000 Poles to the Allied war effort. "Millions of Jews and Poles were victims of the Hitler dictatorship. The fact that Poland was not regarded as a victor state in 1945 was a political concession of the Western Allies to Stalin."

The speech, on the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of Dachau concentration camp, may mark a turning point in German-Polish relations. But Mr Bartoszewski made it clear that he considered Bonn had blundered by not inviting Mr Walesa.

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FBI fears missing Oklahoma bomber will strike again

FROM TOM RHODES IN OKLAHOMA CITY AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE hunt for a second suspect in the Oklahoma bombing stalled yesterday as fears increased among federal agents that he may strike again.

While evidence against Timothy McVeigh, the prime suspect, has been mounting daily, senior investigators have been frustrated in their search for John Doe 2, the unknown second man believed to have planted the bomb outside Oklahoma City's government building on April 19.

John Hersley, an FBI agent, giving evidence against Mr McVeigh at a hearing in the detention centre at El Reno, said his colleagues had been deployed throughout America to trace any other people connected with the bombing. Agents have been checking motels, restaurants, petrol stations and lorry stops in Oklahoma and Kansas to find witnesses who may remember seeing Mr McVeigh with another man.

"Our primary responsibility is to find the other subject to prevent another bomb going off," Mr Hersley said. A separate echo of concern came from William Pierce, the white supremacist and author of *The Turner Diaries*, a fictional account of a fertiliser bombing similar to the one in Oklahoma. Mr Pierce, who runs an ultra-nationalist movement in West Virginia, denies that his book had inspired the attack but said the subsequent investigation could result in further bombings. "If the government cracks down on freedom as a consequence of this, it will provoke further acts of terrorism," he said.

On Thursday night Baroness Thatcher invoked last week's bombing to criticise President Clinton for welcoming Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, to the White House last month.

Speaking at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, Lady Thatcher, echoing what the British Government has secretly felt, said that Americans could now "imagine how we felt when President Clinton received Gerry Adams. You can imagine how he'd feel if we accepted the people who are responsible for what happened in Oklahoma City." The comment elicited loud cheers from the 3,500 audience and was supported yesterday by Wesley Pruden, editor of the *Washington Times*, who wrote that Mr Clinton had helped to create "a climate of tolerance for terrorism" because he was "the President who had invited the Irish terrorist Gerry Adams, responsible for killing many more children than the Oklahoma bombers did, into the White House".

Meanwhile, the FBI is said to be preparing a more detailed identikit portrait of John Doe 2, the third such picture to be circulated. Ten days after the explosion, however, they say the key to the investigation's genesis still lies inside the head of Mr McVeigh, a Gulf War veteran who has adopted the status of a prisoner of war, offering only his name, rank and serial number. His sister, Jennifer, may be flown to El Reno this weekend, in the hopes that she will persuade him to talk.

Ronald Howland, a magistrate, has ordered Mr McVeigh to be held without bail pending a grand jury hearing that could indict him in the bombing.

In Oklahoma City the rescue operation at the devastated federal offices was postponed yesterday because of concerns about structural damage. At least 90 people were still missing and Frank Keating, the Governor of Oklahoma, said it was possible that many of the bodies might never be found.

The FBI believes the bombers may have been financed through a series of armed bank robberies across the Midwest, the most recent of which was three weeks before the explosion. Agents are investigating about 12 hold-ups over the past 15 months, mostly carried out by two or three young white men who left behind some small explosive device as a "calling card". Investigators have been puzzled by the source of Mr McVeigh's funds. He had no regular job since leaving the Army in December 1991.

Republicans postpone vote to repeal gun ban

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

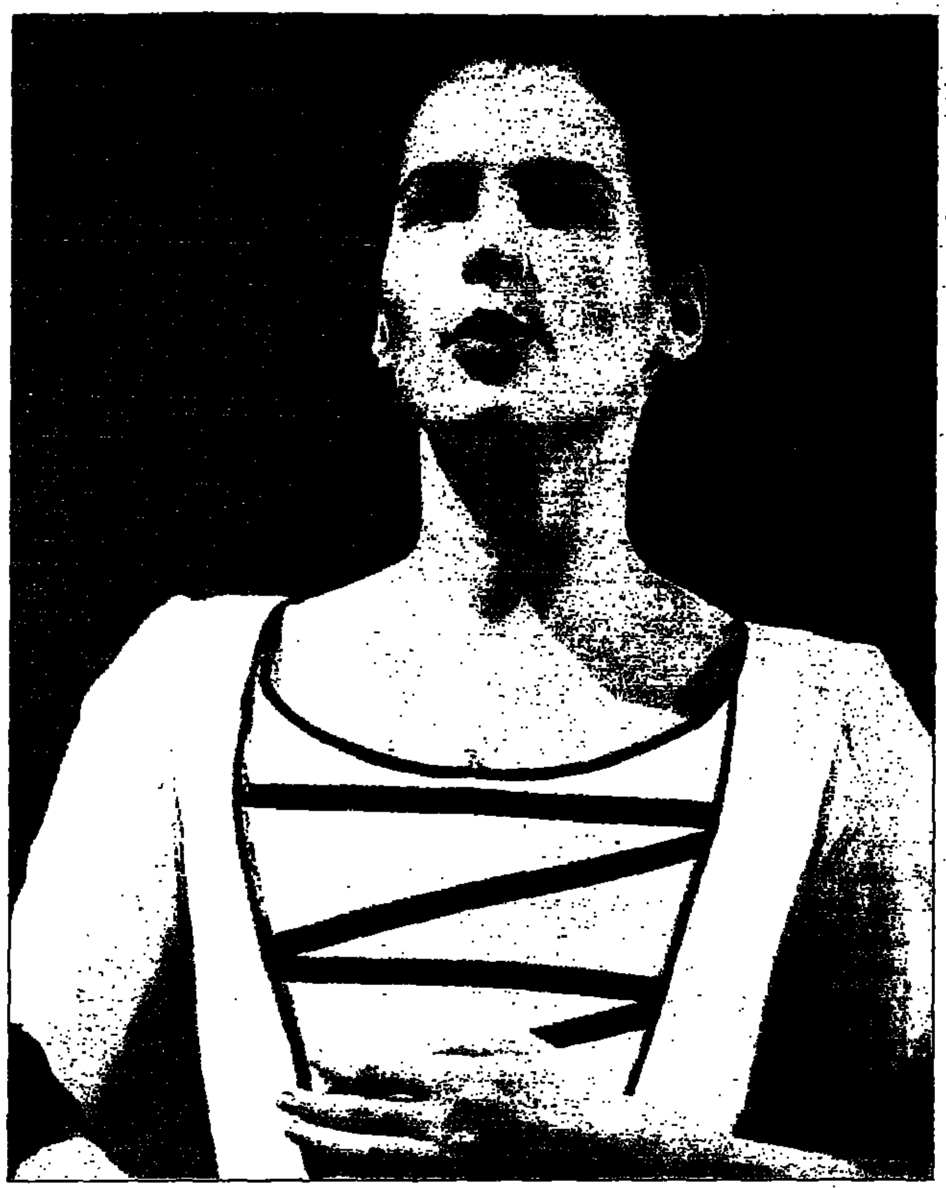
CONGRESSIONAL Republicans have postponed next month's vote to repeal last year's ban on assault weapons for fear of incensing the public after the Oklahoma bombing.

They have delayed the vote until at least the summer lest they be seen as helping the extremist paramilitary movement to which the bombers evidently belonged. The movement has been stockpiling weapons to resist the federal government, and considers all gun control part of a government plot to disarm and repress the people.

Increasing the pressure for a delay was a disclosure this week that at least three new Republican congressmen received help from the militias in last autumn's elections and have expressed sympathy for their views. Idaho's Helen Chenoweth is described by her local newspaper as the movement's "poster child".

The postponement was awkward because much of the party's grass roots opposed the ban, but they first obtained the blessing of the powerful National Rifle Assocation. "It's the right thing to do," Wayne LaPierre, the NRA's executive vice-president, said.

The NRA could scarcely object because all week the media have been using the inflammatory anti-government language of the NRA's campaigns to portray it as the militia movement's soul mate. Recent NRA fundraising letters talk of "jackbooted government thugs".



Julia Ormond, *Legends of the Fall* star: listed among the world's beautiful people

Enterprising choice of beauty

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE *Star Trek* actor Patrick Stewart, 54 and completely bald, is one of the world's 50 most beautiful people.

So are Elizabeth Hurley and Julia Ormond, the actresses, and Gloria Steinem, the feminist, according to an invidious and deeply unscientific list published in next week's *People* magazine.

In six years the magazine's annual "Beauties" list has evolved into a strange but well scrutinised ritual, seen by an estimated 29 million readers and muttered over by fashion professionals across America.

Stewart: chosen by *People* magazine

It will be especially upsetting to one of the nation's leading modelling agencies, Ford Models, which recently opened a Los Angeles office amid a blaze of publicity over its drive to expose its clients to wider audiences. The agency's expansion was seen as the modelling world's revenge on actresses like Hurley who weeks earlier had picked up a coveted $3 million (£1.87 million) contract as the face of Estée Lauder cosmetics. Unlike Hurley, who shot to stardom thanks to her relationship with Hugh Grant and a revealing Gianni Versace gown, no Ford models are on this year's list.

John F. Kennedy Jr, the aspiring magazine publisher and 34-year-old son of the assassinated President, appeared for the fifth time, confirming his status as America's most eligible bachelor.

People diplomatically refuses to rank its 50 names, and allots half to men, who this year include Brad Pitt, Ormond's co-star in *Legends of the Fall*, and the writer John Grisham.

Despite the list's patent frivolity, nobody minds being on it. Even Ms Steinem, 61, a lifelong campaigner against the objectification of women, consented to a television interview to help to promote it. "If you wait long enough, you get to be beautiful just by breaking a stereotype," she said.

Nasa hits winning formula to catch ball

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

NASA scientists have worked out how cricketers and baseball players manage to track and then catch a ball that has risen upward, hung there for a moment and then plummeted back to earth: they are thinking in two dimensions, rather than three.

While they may not know it, fielders move at varying speeds and directions in relation to what is known in cricket as a "skyer" and in baseball as a "fly ball", to give the optical impression that the ball is moving in a straight line against the background, according to a report published yesterday in the journal *Science*.

In effect, a fielder runs on a course that makes the ball appear to be heading in a straight line relative to the sky, the stands and the batsman, according to the research.

"The fielder must continually move more under the ball and not allow the ball in his or her vision to curve optically towards the ground," says Michael McBeath, a psychologist at Kent State University, who collaborated with Nasa on the project to explore how the human optical system copes with movement in space.

Linear Optical Trajectory, (LOT), is instinctive in sportsmen, as it is in all animals. A hungry fish follows the same curving path towards a fleeing minnow as do other predators to their prey.

Mr McBeath and his colleagues arrived at the theory by strapping video cameras to baseball players and monitoring their visual perspectives as they moved to catch balls.

"This model says you don't know where the ball will land: you just know that if you keep it on a straight trajectory, you will catch it. It's a little counter-intuitive. In the image, the ball never comes down optically. What goes up, stays up," Mr McBeath says.

"If you're running along a path that doesn't allow the ball to curve down, then in a sense you're guaranteed to catch it." For the same reason, fielders find it harder to catch balls struck directly towards them. Some spontaneously step aside, to follow the trajectory.

£61m loan to clear oil spills

GAS flowed yesterday through the hastily repaired Russian pipeline that exploded on Thursday, as the Russian Government began an urgent clean-up of oil spills from leaking pipelines after the announcement of a World Bank loan (Michael Binyon writes).

The bank is to lend Russia $99 million (£61 million) for emergency action to cope with spills threatening the Arctic environment. Pollution risks are growing as the spring thaw approaches.

Buthelezi 'wrong to fight election'

Johannesburg: Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party and South African Home Minister, said his participation in last year's election was a wrong personal political decision, but right for the country. He feels betrayed by failures by the African National Congress and National Party to honour promises on international mediation over federal and provincial power.

Soldiers told cult of raids

Tokyo: A Japanese soldier was dismissed and another resigned yesterday after they leaked information about police raids to the Aum Shinrikyo cult being investigated over the Tokyo subway gas attacks.

Sergeant Takahisa Shirai, 25, was dismissed because of the leak and was then arrested. Shinya Asano, 26, also a sergeant, resigned after being suspended. *(Reuter)*

Missing finance chief surrenders

Los Angeles: Robert Citron, the former Orange County treasurer who disappeared when the authority announced investment losses of $2 billion (£1.25 billion) last December, has surrendered to police and pleaded guilty to a series of crimes. Citron, 70, faces up to 14 years in prison and fines of up to $10 million.

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Deng clique reeling after disgrace of Peking boss

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

BY DISGRACING Chen Xitong, a Politburo member and the chief of the Peking Communist Party, President Jiang Zemin of China has deeply wounded the once all-powerful faction of Deng Xiaoping.

Mr Chen, 65, one of the party's hard men, is reportedly being held on suspicion of massive corruption after he was apparently arrested in Peking on Thursday. He has been replaced by Wei Jianxiang, a Politburo member with a reputation for fighting official corruption so endemic and despised that Mr Jiang and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, have said that it could destroy the party.

Mr Chen's fall has been described officially as a forced resignation. The last Politburo member to be pushed from office was Hu Yaobang, the party General Secretary, in 1987 — for being too hard on his corrupt senior colleagues. Hu's death two years later sparked the Tiananmen Square uprising.

Mr Chen's disgrace is the latest in a pyramid of corruption cases that have resulted in the alleged suicide of Wang Baosen, the Deputy Mayor of Peking, the detention and disappearance of other officials and their aides, the resignation of Zhou Guanwu, the chairman of Peking's Shougang steel works, and the arrest for fraud of Mr Zhou's son, Beifang, who was also a business associate in Hong Kong of Mr Deng's tycoon son, Zhifang.

Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, has accused Mr Chen of having "unshirkable responsibilities for Wang Baosen's case". Peking newspapers have been hinting that Wang was murdered, perhaps by Mr Chen, with whom he shared a mistress and conspired in property deals, which became known in Peking as the "Chen System". A rigorous investigation of Wang would have implicated Mr Chen. These deals involved building the Asian Games village in 1990 which was expanded for what China had hoped would be the Olympic Games site in 2000.

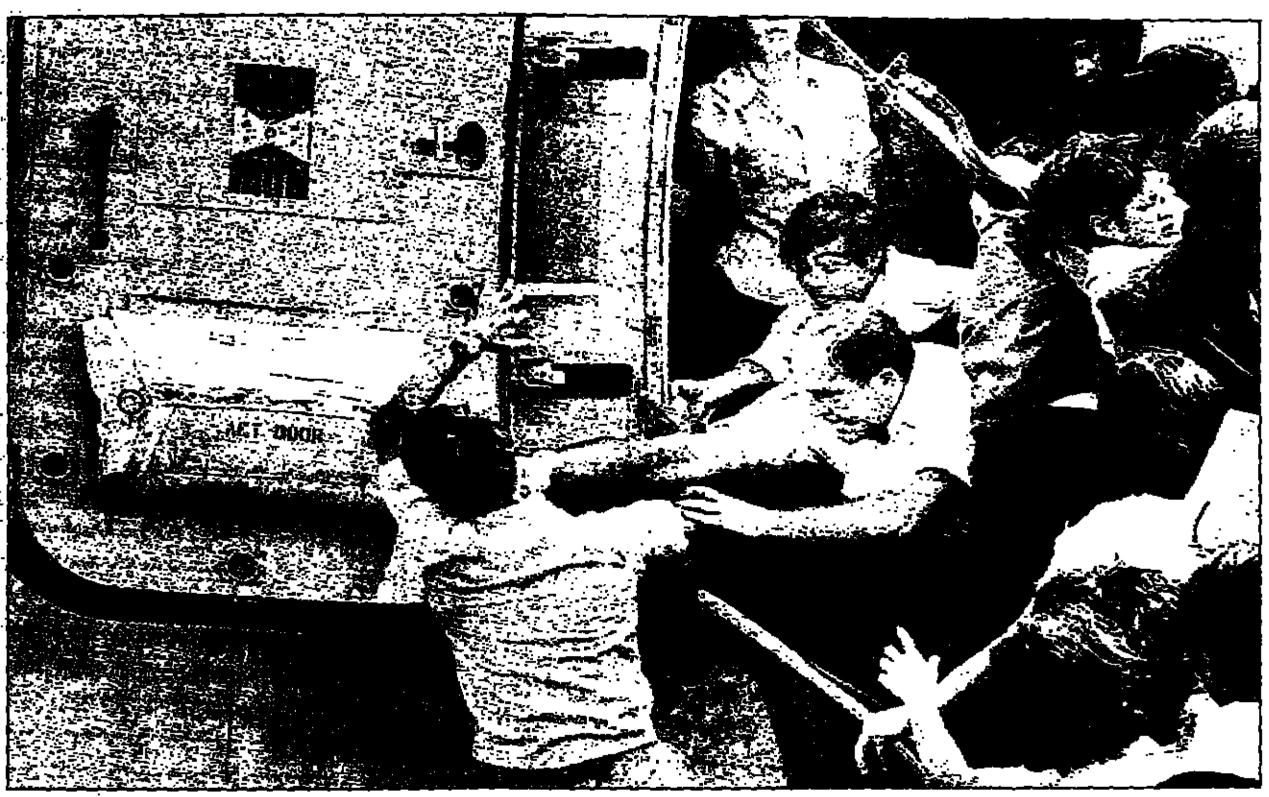
Mr Chen had been active in the Tiananmen crackdown, about which he wrote the definitive official justification, and was rewarded by Mr Deng, who elevated him to the Politburo. His pride in the Tiananmen massacre played a key role in China's failure to win the Games; just before the final decision, he said he could "guarantee security" in Peking. This alarmed the selection committee, and when Mr Chen appeared on television after China's failure, he was booed on Peking campuses.

After Wang's death, which appeared to be connected with Mr Jiang's anti-corruption drive, Mr Chen seemed to be defying the President.

By toppling Mr Chen, and perhaps arresting him, Mr Jiang is gambling. It is not common to purge senior officials, and it is unknown to move against confederates of the previous supreme leader until he dies.

It was only after Mao Tse-tung died in 1976 that the hugely unpopular Gang of Four was arrested. It took Mr Deng several years to lower Hua Guofeng, Mao's designated successor, gently into obscurity.

For several years Chinese officials have insisted that the succession to Mr Deng would be smooth and that the Dengist economic reform policies would continue unchecked. However, one of the fruits of the reforms has been corruption, in which the Deng family is implicated. The 38th Army, which spearheaded the Tiananmen crackdown and is a mainstay of the Peking garrison, is reported to support President Jiang as he undermines Mr Deng, the man who brought him to the Politburo from Shanghai where he had been Mayor and party leader. However, other high officials vulnerable to corruption charges and not in the Jiang camp may move against the President before he picks them off.



An American official punches a man trying to board an overloaded aircraft in the evacuation of Nha Trang in April 1975, when South Vietnamese forces collapsed in the face of the communist advance

Vietnamese victors reach out to the vanquished 20 years on

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN SAIGON

THERE are two military cemeteries a mile apart at Thu Duc just outside Saigon and they illustrate how slow reconciliation has been in coming for foes of the Vietnam War.

One cemetery, well kept with flowers and shrubs, is for 14,000 communist "fallen heroes". The other, for 64,000 soldiers of the "puppet" South Vietnam Government, is arid, with overturned headstones stripped of marble.

In ceremonies this weekend to mark the communist victory on 30 April, 1975, the South Vietnamese forces who died will be largely overlooked, as Vietnam tries to encourage Western business to invest here and makes moves towards a market economy. However, things are slowly changing for the better — for everyone.

The market reforms introduced slowly since 1986 are beginning to bear fruit, though this remains a hardline one-party state. The American embargo was lifted last year and liaison offices were formally opened in Hanoi and Washington in February.

A former South Vietnamese officer who spent years in a re-education camp and was visiting the grave in the Thu Duc communist cemetery of a friend killed in Cambodia, said: "In the last three years there has been less of a stigma and life is more bearable. Our sons and daughters are no longer denied a place in school or college or decent jobs."

Truong Tan Sang, 46, chairman of Ho Chi Minh City's people's committee, said yesterday in the old French-built city hall: "We would like to open our arms to all our fellow countrymen who were on the other side. Our policy is to consolidate our strength for the future of the country."

> ❛ There is now less of a stigma. Our sons and daughters are no longer denied a place in school ❜

Of Vietnamese-American relations, Mr Sang, a former student leader jailed by the Saigon regime in 1969, said: "We will not do anything to evoke the gulf of past animosity between our two countries. The ball is in the US court."

In the past, most of the best jobs in the south have gone to party ideologues from Hanoi. The young women who escort visitors around the palace of Nguyen Van Thieu, the former President — where a North Vietnamese tank numbered 843 ended the war by smashing through the gate two decades ago tomorrow — are daughters of Hanoi cadres.

Despite the 58,153 American dead, and the 223,748 South Vietnamese who perished, the communist side suffered far more under a rain of bombs greater than was dropped in all theatres in the Second World War — B52 strikes, napalm attacks and the ravages of Agent Orange dioxins. Hanoi claims about 1.1 million North Vietnamese soldiers were killed between 1954 and 1975. Two million civilians died, according to Hanoi.

Though these figures are impossible to verify, they ring true. An inkling of what it was like to live in North Vietnam, or to be a communist infantryman in the south, is given in a recent novel, *Sorrow of War*, by an ex-soldier.

Bao Ninh, the author, went south in 1965 with 500 young soldiers, only ten of whom survived the war. Six of those later committed suicide.

The US still lists 2,211 American soldiers as missing in Indochina, including 1,651 in Vietnam, and the issue of these MIAs is hampering the establishment of full diplomatic relations.

The war left two million Vietnamese invalids. Hanoi claims 50,000 children have been born deformed as a result of the Agent Orange defoliant, though all the evidence is not yet in on this, most analysts say.

It seems clear with hindsight that Vietnam was an anti-colonial war, and not a case of monolithic communism expanding into Asia. China and Vietnam, after all, were age-old enemies, and still have a troubled relationship. Ho Chi Minh, the North Vietnamese leader, led a nationalist movement and his name is still sacred in Vietnam even if the tenets of Marxism-Leninism are now widely questioned.

I covered the war for three years, including the 1968 Tet offensive and the US incursions into Cambodia, which spread the war across that country, and into Laos. I remember watching the South Vietnamese coming back from the disastrous Laotian operation, hanging on to the undersides of helicopter skids, of the dead being lined up, and of a crass American officer indicating to the corpses and saying: "They're doing a great job, these boys, we're proud of them."

But most American soldiers or Marines, the Grunts, treated ordinary Vietnamese with consideration. In fact, most US soldiers were not in the war at all, with up to nine rear echelon troops at comparatively safe rear bases for every one combat soldier.

The communist forces could also be cruel, using selective assassination of school teachers and health workers — anyone who worked for Saigon. In Hue, in early 1968, hundreds of South Vietnamese were murdered by communist forces. As in most wars, there was no monopoly of virtue or evil.

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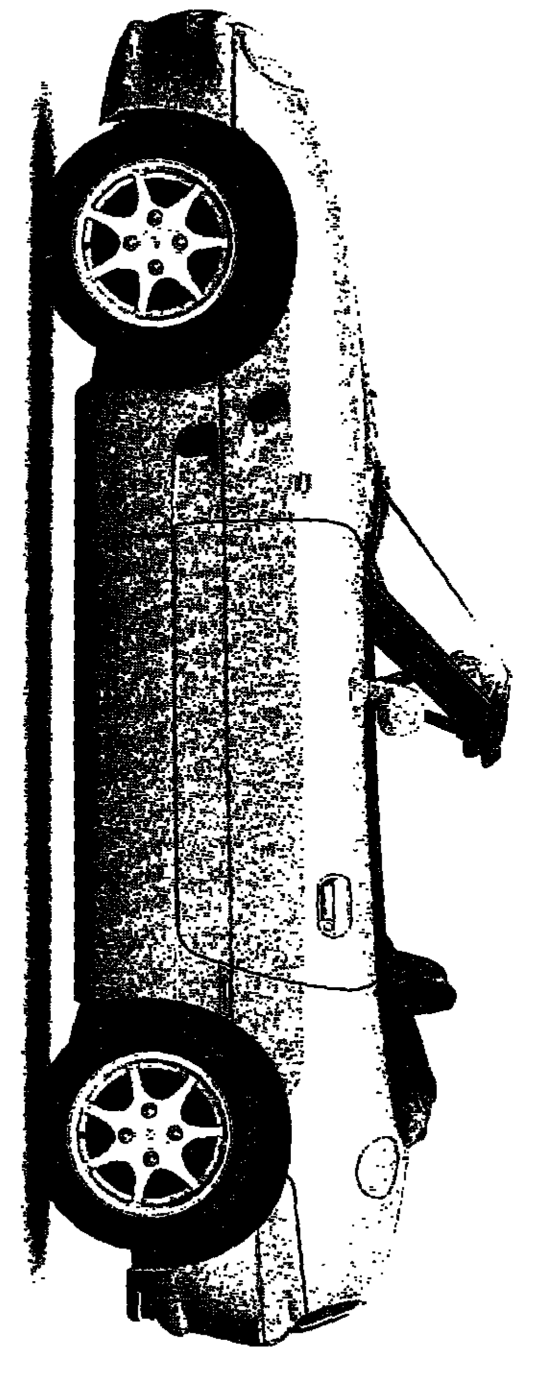

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Gaullist rival frets as Jospin rides wave of support

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MARSEILLES

THE French election of 1995 will be remembered for its manias: first "Delorsomania", then "Balladuromania" in winter, followed by "Chiraquomania" in March. Ten days from the final vote, the late-coming Socialist candidate has been swept up by "Jospinomania".

Lionel Jospin, 57, is still ten percentage points behind Jacques Chirac in the polls, but after his surprise lead over both Gaullist rivals in last Sunday's first round, he is revelling in what he calls "*un élan formidable*". His version of what Americans call "the Big Mo" was given a further shove yesterday when he signalled that, if elected, he could appoint Jacques Delors, France's most popular politician, as Prime Minister. The Jospin wave has put the wind up the divided Gaullist camp as it plans a rally in Paris today.

The sudden chemistry between "Lionel the lecturer" and his public was on full display as he stormed around southern France this week, ending at a triumphant evening rally before 8,000 people in Le Dôme, the high-tech venue in Marseilles normally reserved for rock stars. France's great Mediterranean city is vital territory because, suffering from crime, unemployment and high immigration, it gave Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the far Right National Front, 22 per cent of its vote. M Jospin came second with 20 per cent.

In a scene that few could have imagined when M Jospin was known as a grey and high-minded Education Minister, a mainly young crowd mobbed him for ten minutes, kissing and hugging him and yelling: "*On a gagné!*" The lilting Provençal accent was strongest when they got to what came over as "*Jospaing, presidaing!*"

M Jospin mocked his straightlaced image and silenced a heckler: "Wait for the punchline. It's subtle." Sitting in the crowd, Sylviane Jospin, 48, the candidate's philosopher wife, was amazed. "It's fantastic, incredible. Lionel's really on a roll," she said. M Jospin said that "the Right may have the numbers but they don't have the momentum that is carrying us ahead".

He thundered: "You can never believe anything Jacques Chirac says." He ridiculed M Chirac's claim to be the candidate of change. "The only thing he changes is himself... what was the point of him being Prime Minister twice and so many times a minister if we still do not know what he thinks?"

The point was a response to M Chirac's claim that M Jospin, who served as Education Minister and party leader under President Mitterrand in the 1980s, lacks the statesman's quality required for the Elysée Palace. The argument reflected the oddness of a campaign which features opponents who both spring from the outgoing administration but who are pledging a brave new France.

FRENCH ELECTION

M Chirac is flagging now that he is being tarred as an old-fashioned rightwinger and called to account for the past two years of Gaullist-led government. However, he has a strong weapon when he paints M Jospin as a figure from the discredited Mitterrand administration.

Though his manifesto is standard Socialist, M Jospin barely mentions the patriarch, or indeed the party which both of them led. Banking on the votes of the Communists and disaffected Mitterrand supporters, he talks only about "*le peuple de gauche*". "This is not a party quest," he said in Marseilles. "It's about people who have found hope again."

Offering hope was his message to the traditionally leftwing city, where disillusion pushed many working-class voters into the arms of M Le Pen. Fear over surging crime and unemployment were legitimate, said M Jospin, but he denounced the "xenophobia" they breed. M Chirac, in contrast, is making a much more naked pitch for the anti-immigrant vote.

The other view could be found just outside the hall in the Saint Juste district, where middle-aged men were finishing their evening of *pétanque* and repairing to a bar for a twilight pastis. "We're leftwingers. We would have voted for Tapie, but since they nobbled him, we went with Le Pen. He's the only one who is telling the truth," said a plumber, to the approval of his friends. The reference was to Bernard Tapie, the bankrupt tycoon, MP and Marseilles football owner who is still a big local hero.

M Jospin, a man who could be France's first Protestant President, is under no doubt that the arithmetic is against him, given that 60 per cent of the first-round vote went to conservatives. He is aiming hard at the centre field, offering his Delorsian menu for deeper European union in contrast to M Chirac's more sceptical stance.

M Jospin was drawing satisfaction yesterday from signs that some of the Balladur centre were joining him rather than Chirac. The most celebrated defector so far is Alain Minc, an eminent intellectual who advised the Prime Minister. "Jospinomania" may turn out to be short-lived, but it is already prompting some commentators to see him taking up residence in the Elysée.

Libération yesterday said he was a modest outsider in the mould of Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton: "Victory has given him wings, while Jacques Chirac seems to have shrunk in the first electoral wash."

Turkish special forces return by helicopter to Cukurca in south-east Turkey after operations in northern Iraq against Kurdish guerrillas. The Ankara Government says it has now withdrawn 20,000 of the 32,000 troops sent across the border on March 20. Claiming that the five-week-old operation in northern Iraq has struck a heavy blow to the guerrillas, the

Turkey to keep troops on border

Turkish military said yesterday it was planning a long-term presence along the border to prevent infiltrations by guerrillas after the last of the troops are withdrawn. General Hasan Kundakci, commander of the operation, said in a newspaper interview that border bases for a "sufficient number" of soldiers would be built to keep rebels from launching attacks into Turkey. It was not clear if soldiers would remain inside northern Iraq until their bases along the border were established. Turkey sent its troops to attack about 20 camps used by 2,800 rebels. Turkey's Western allies have been demanding that the forces be withdrawn, while Ankara has insisted that troops will not remain in northern Iraq permanently. Turkish military authorities said that 505 rebels and 58 soldiers have been killed since the operation began. *(AP)*

EU seeks to widen passport-free zone

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE European Union yesterday agreed to seek negotiations to extend the Schengen area of passport-free travel to all five Nordic countries.

The extension of "Schengenland" to Norway and Iceland, which are not EU members, is bound to lead to diplomatic difficulties with the East European countries, some of which are strong candidates for full membership.

The decision to initiate negotiations was announced yesterday by Robert Urbain, the Foreign Trade and European Affairs Minister of Belgium, which holds the rotating presidency of the Schengen club. EU ministers met yesterday to welcome Austria as the tenth member of the club, and to iron out some of the logistical difficulties that have arisen since the borders were opened on March 26. The Schengen passport-free area currently includes Germany, France, the Benelux countries, Spain and Portugal as full members, with Italy and Greece due to join later. Britain and Ireland have not signed the accord, named after the Luxembourg town where the idea for passport-free travel was dreamt up ten years ago.

The three Nordic EU members, Denmark, Sweden and Finland, have also refused to join, since the Schengen deal would have forced them to abandon their passport-free travel arrangements with Norway and Iceland. Mr Urbain indicated yesterday that it might be possible to reach an agreement, under which the Nordic EU countries become full members of the accord, while the others be given associate status. This solution would leave the Nordic free-travel zone intact.

Passport controls for "intra-Schengen" travel have been eliminated at airports but a workable system has not been implemented at Schiphol in Amsterdam, and it has been withdrawn from the arrangement until December 15. The French also committed themselves to solve logistical problems at Marseilles and Nice airports and promised to press ahead with legislation to allow police from neighbouring countries to continue car chases across the border.

One of the closest lieutenants of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, yesterday called for the EU to grant the European Parliament a massive increase in its powers when the Maastricht treaty is reviewed next year. Rudolf Seiters, deputy parliamentary leader of the governing Christian Democrats and close confidant of Herr Kohl, said in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* that national vetoes on EU decisions should be abolished on joint foreign, crime or immigration policies.

France plans cut in aid for Algeria

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

FRANCE is planning to cut aid to Algeria from six billion francs (£769 million) in 1994 to five billion francs this year, *Le Monde* said yesterday.

The newspaper, quoting unnamed senior government officials, said that the cut would not be announced until the summer, well after the presidential election. No comment was available from the Economy Ministry.

Le Monde said the cut, linked to budget savings, would be offset by French participation in the rescheduling of its former colony's foreign debt. But it was likely to be perceived in Algiers as a shift in attitude towards the military-backed Government in its fight against Muslim extremists.

Algeria and the International Monetary Fund are expected to sign an agreement on an economic adjustment programme, carrying $1.8 billion in credits, next month. The deal will be followed by a rescheduling of $20 billion of Algeria's debt to the Paris Club of Western creditors.

Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, has pledged that Paris would help Algeria to win international aid. But French backing has cooled since the Christmas hijacking of a French airliner by Muslim fundamentalists at Algiers airport.

Officials race to renew Bosnia truce

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

Milosevic met Bosnian envoy to Switzerland

OFFICIALS of the five-nation Contact Group met in Paris yesterday for a last-minute attempt to win renewal of the crumbling Bosnian ceasefire, due to expire on Monday.

America, Russia, France, Germany and Britain were considering ways of repackaging their peace plan to make it acceptable to all sides and persuade the warring parties to extend the cessation of hostilities.

The group hopes that recent contacts, including a meeting between President Milosevic of Serbia and Bosnia's Ambassador to Switzerland, Muhammad Filipovic, can lead to a formula that would persuade Mr Milosevic to recognise Bosnia and Croatia. The focus is on Bosnia, with hopes that Serbia's acceptance of the package could save the ceasefire.

None of the group is optimistic, and strains between some members are taking a toll. France is especially concerned about the security of the United Nations Protection Force and is pressing for better protection for its soldiers. Two French peacekeepers were killed two weeks ago.

Serious consideration is being given by all five powers to a withdrawal of UN forces if the ceasefire is not renewed, despite an appeal yesterday by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General. France, in the middle of an election, is pressing hardest.

Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian Prime Minister, is to visit Paris on Thursday for talks with Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister. France is especially concerned by suggestions that it was Bosnian snipers who killed its peacekeepers.

M Juppé telephoned Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, to co-ordinate positions. A French spokesman said they reached a "very broad convergence of views".

Meanwhile Denis Rutovitz, 60, a Scottish aid worker shot in the chest when driving a food lorry into Sarajevo, has been flown to Zagreb, a UN spokesman said yesterday.

UN tackles rise in world crime

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FOR MILLIONS of people in the 1990s, the main fear is no longer war between nations but the safety of their homes and families, according to experts at a United Nations congress on crime that opens in Cairo today.

Officials, police and lawyers from 120 countries gathering for the UN's ninth congress on crime prevention and the treatment of offenders, face estimates that crime is increasing by 5 per cent a year.

There are also signs of international alliances between criminal gangs such as the Mafia and the triads. No one is immune from crime, said Eduardo Vetere, chief of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in Vienna, and executive secretary of the congress.

The purpose of the conference will be to make sure existing commitments are put into action, rather than searching for more initiatives.

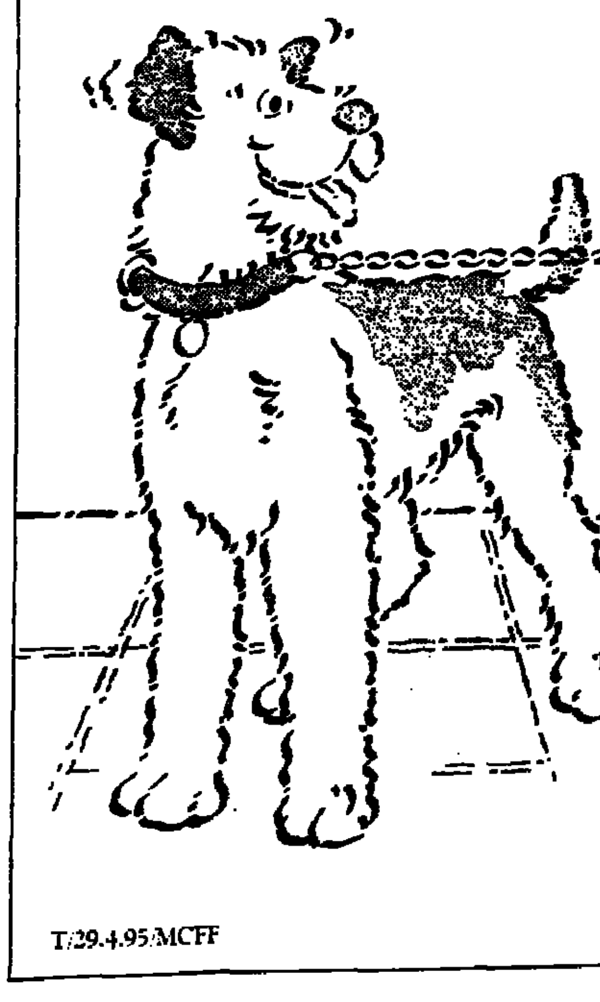
UN experts say the rise in international crime is particularly alarming as countries ease border restrictions and "hot" money moves from country to country at the speed of an electronic signal. They estimate that with very high levels of profit, criminals will amass cash much more quickly than banks or large corporations.

The vast amounts of cash generated by money laundering are powerful enough to influence some national economies.

During the recent Mexican financial crisis, some of the speculation involved laundered funds, and American sources estimate that a quarter of the cash used to buy recently-privatised banks came from illegal sources.

In Russia, there has been a 25 per cent slide in industrial production and other economic declines, but total personal income has risen by 10 per cent, suggesting criminal and shadowy economic activity.

Leading article, page 17



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Schoolchildren bear brunt of Korea death blast

FROM SHIM SUNG WON IN TAEGU, SOUTH KOREA

AROUND 100 South Koreans, more than half of them schoolchildren, were killed in a rush-hour gas explosion yesterday which hurled cars, trucks and steel plates through the air like a hail of deadly confetti.

A spokesman for the Government's anti-disaster squad working at the scene in Taegu, 150 miles south of Seoul, said 99 people were confirmed killed in one of South Korea's worst peacetime disasters. State television and local media, quoting police, put the death toll at 110 with more than 200 injured.

Labourers working in an underground construction site for a new subway line, along with dozens of commuters, were thought to have been entombed in a water-filled pit. Some 2,500 rescuers were last night still combing the debris in the search for survivors.

The blast sent vehicles flying through the air and a temporary grid of steel plates the size of office desks, which were covering the road, flew like missiles over an area hundreds of yards wide, crushing and dismembering pedestrians. "I heard a loud bang and flames rose about 50 yards into the air, taking steel plates with it," said a taxi driver.

Officials said the death toll would rise as many of the injured were in critical condition. Lee Hong Koo, the Prime Minister, said after visiting the scene that more than half the dead were teenagers on their way to school, a fact that "makes our hearts ache even more". Grieving relatives and colleagues converged on Yongnam Secondary School, which lost 38 students.

Park Yoon Ho, 17, said that he heard a loud explosion as he walked to school. "Then I was blown down by a gust that sent out a mushroom of dust. It looked like the explosion of an atomic bomb on television."

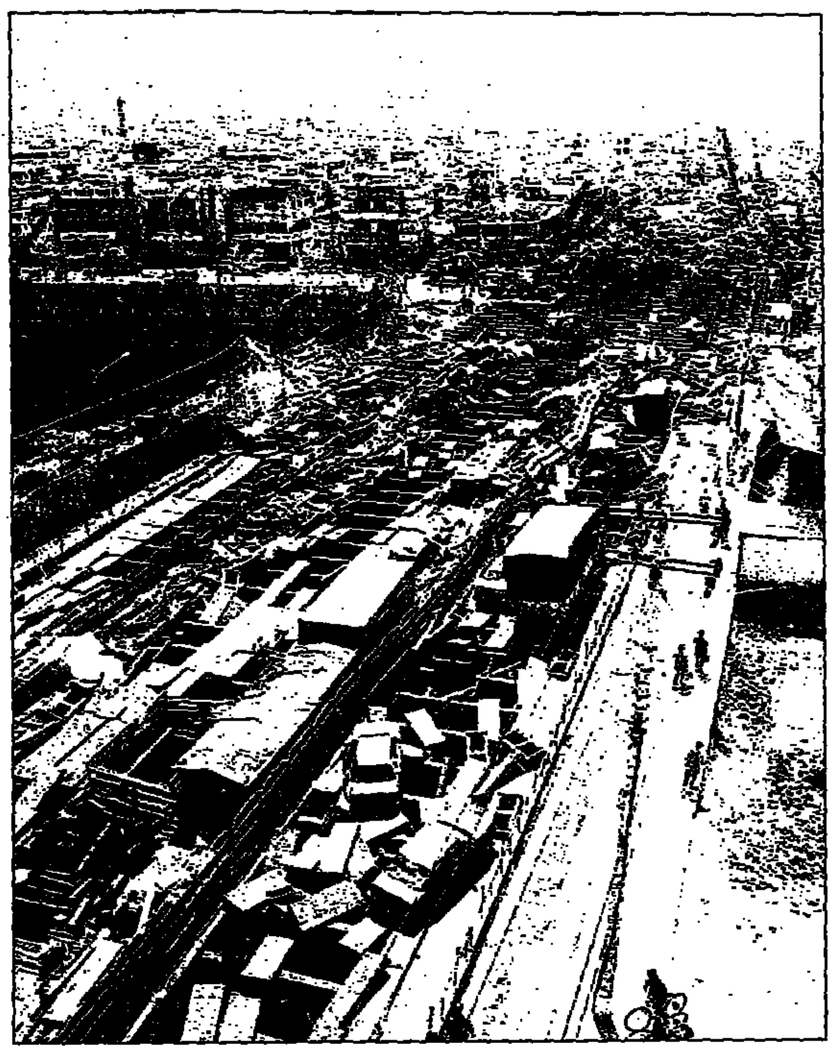
Witnesses said the blast shook buildings like an earthquake over a wide area. About 70 were badly damaged, and water pipes were fractured, flooding the subway construction pit and delaying rescue work. Electricity supplies were also cut.

Gas suppliers said they suspected that an excavator had punctured a gas supply pipe. State radio said the explosion was apparently caused by welding work, which started gas leaking from a supply pipe. There was no independent confirmation.

It was the second fatal gas explosion in South Korea in less than five months. In December, 12 people were killed by an underground gas blast in a central district of Seoul. It is the latest tragedy in a chapter of disasters in South Korea. A bridge in central Seoul collapsed last October during the morning rush hour, killing more than 30 people. A few days later, a pleasure craft exploded on a lake, killing a similar number.

President Kim Young Sam has ordered a full inquiry. "Government agencies should take the best possible course of action to ascertain the exact cause of the disaster and to control its aftermath," a spokesman quoted Mr Kim as saying.

The blast was expected to cause a public outcry in the run-up to local council elections on June 27, the first poll test of President Kim, who began his five-year term in February 1993. Taegu, South Korea's third largest city, is a politically sensitive area and political analysts predicted an uphill battle for the ruling Democratic Liberal Party. The President has purged several senior political figures from the city since he came to power. *(Reuter)*


The aftermath of yesterday's rush-hour gas explosion in Taegu, South Korea

Rwandan soldiers threaten aid workers

FROM SAM KILEY IN KIGALI

RWANDAN government soldiers dragged a Médecins Sans Frontières worker from his home one night, put a pistol in his mouth and warned him to behave. Yesterday it took Seth Sindashaga, the Interior Minister, to free members of the French agency who had been held at Kigali airport for 48 hours.

These, and scores of other incidents including raids on Red Cross houses, pointed to growing harassment of aid agencies by the Government, relief workers said. The Government is increasingly resentful of the international community, which failed to intervene during last year's genocide.

France backed the previous regime with weapons and training during the civil war with the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front and set up a "safe zone" for Hutus when the RPF took power last July. As a result, French aid agencies are viewed with deep suspicion. This has broken into open hostility since Médecins Sans Frontières said that "thousands", rather than the Government's "hundreds", of people were killed in Kibeho camp last weekend.

A senior agency official said yesterday: "We are on the verge of being expelled because of our outspokenness. In addition, our people feel that their lives are in danger because the Government, mistakenly, feels that we are against it." The Government also fears that aid agencies are being used unwittingly by Hutu extremists as couriers. Letters from Rwanda's former President, Theodore Sindikubwabo, and a Hutu militia leader in Zaire, addressed to a camp leader in Tanzania, have been intercepted.

Tension between the Government and the United Nations has also reached breaking point over the UN estimate that 2,000 people died in Kibeho. But the roots of this squabble lie in financial statistics. Since July $2 billion (£1.25 billion) has been spent by the international community on food and healthcare for two million Hutu refugees. But Rwanda's new regime raised only $587.5 million at a meeting with donors last January, far short of the $750 million it requested.

Major-General Paul Kagame, Vice-President and Minister of Defence, said: "We should ask those who feed people in the camps where armed people are plotting against us why they are doing it. I am far from satisfied with the international community."

☐ **Nairobi:** Former Rwandan soldiers infiltrated Rwanda, clashed with government troops and lobbed mortar bombs into a refugee camp in Zaire, a UN spokesman said yesterday. *(Reuter)*

14 die in rainforest field trip accident

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO IN WELLINGTON

A GEOLOGY field trip turned to tragedy in New Zealand yesterday when 14 people, 13 of them students, plunged nearly 120ft to their deaths as a viewing platform in a national park collapsed.

The disaster, the worst in New Zealand for nearly 30 years, occurred in a dense rainforest on the west coast of South Island. The 13 outdoor recreation students who died were from the Tai Poutaini polytechnic college at Greymouth, 140 miles northwest of Christchurch. They were visiting the Paparoa National Park.

Police said 18 people had been on a platform overlooking a spectacular cavern called Cave Creek when it collapsed, hurling them on to rocks below. A student ran nearly two miles to raise the alarm.

Of the four who survived, three were in a serious condition in hospital last night.

The town of Greymouth, 25 miles from the scene of the disaster, was in mourning last night. But the tragedy was felt throughout the country as the students came from several centres, including Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch.

James Bolger, the Prime Minister, expressed his sorrow, and Simon Upton, the acting Minister of Conservation, moved immediately to set up an inquiry.

Stephen Attwood, a Department of Conservation worker, said that the platform had a loading limit of ten people.

Japanese retracts 'slaves of US' claim

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN TOKYO

A JAPANESE government minister who accused the United States of using his compatriots as "slaves" retracted the remark yesterday and promised not to repeat it.

Shizuka Kamei, the Transport Minister, had been quoted by a newspaper as he expressed his frustration with Washington's reluctance to defend the dollar, which is hitting Japan's economy.

America "had an era in which black slaves were bought and brought from Africa and produced wealth", Mr Kamei was quoted by the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* as saying in a speech on Thursday. "Now, there are the Japanese who are very diligent and can be used as slaves successfully. Isn't [the United States] wondering if there is some way to use them readily, and is actually using them? I have lately seen some indications that make me suspect them of this."

Mr Kamei did not say exactly how the US was using Japanese as slaves. He is one of the more conservative members of the Liberal Democratic Party, the largest party in Japan's coalition.

But yesterday he said that he made the remarks off the record. "I would like the United States, which has the key international currency, to understand as an ally that the wild fluctuations in foreign exchange are striking a serious blow to the Japanese economy," Mr Kamei said.

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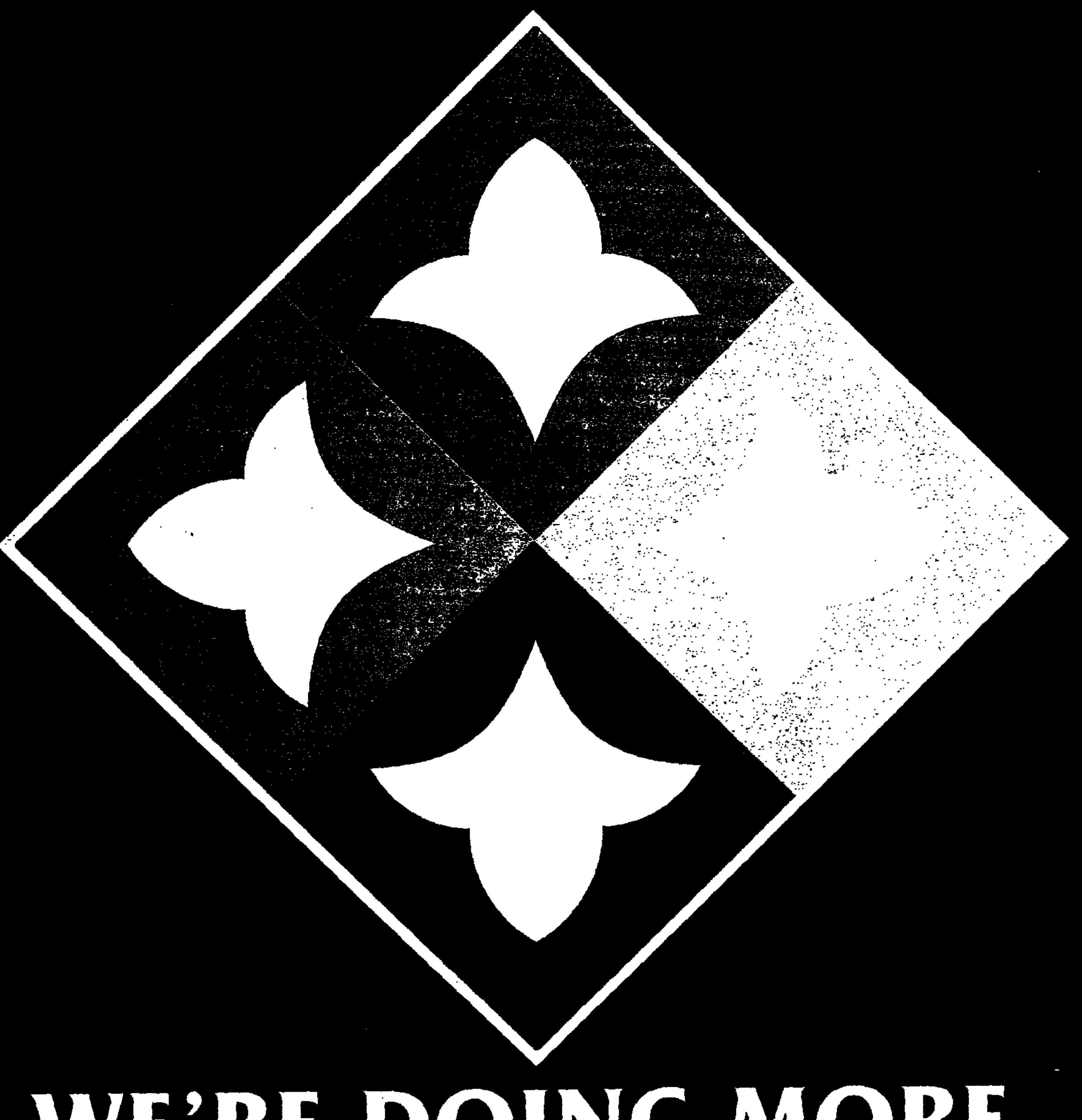

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Philip Howard

The rich compost of war has yielded a colourful crop of slang words

Fifty years on. VE-Day stirs old roots. War changes the language as well as the lives. liberties and landscapes of everybody and it creates its own slang, which is the poetry of the common man. By mixing different sorts of people, who would never meet in normal times, in conditions of extreme anxiety and emotion alternating with long periods of idleness and boredom, war is a rich compost for slang.

Much VE-Day slang has vanished from the surface of language as completely as most of the bomb craters. We may *guess* what body-snatchers (first-aid workers) in a flap (air raid), bottled sunshine (beer), yum-yum (an amorous message sent by post), and a brolly hop into the drink by a bus driver (a parachute jump by a bomber pilot into the Channel) meant. (If he had ditched in the Atlantic, his watery destination would have been described as the gravy or herring pond.) Girlfriends were known as charmers, lush bints or pushers. A sailor's chum was his brassy or sprog. When they had a disagreement they parted brassrags, each taking his cleaning rags back to his own quarters. When they had an evening off and a pass, men got into their swanks (civvies) and took the liberty bus into town to pitch a woo. Those seeing a girl regularly were said to be nibbling, and an amorous couple were described as kittens in a basket. But only old soldiers (take in Wrens, ATS, Waafs and all), who used the slang when it was living, and historians of wartime slang actually *know*.

Other wartime slang survives, like its contemporary pillboxes around the countryside: recognisable but unused, except for parachronistic purposes. You cannot use popsy (girlfriend) or "wizard" as a term of approval except ironically, historically, or as proof that you are a Rip Van Jingle whose idiolect has been asleep for half a century. Wizard had already become slang before the war, set down by sensitive seismometers of language such as Evelyn Waugh and P.G. Wodehouse. But it was carved into the language by the men and women of the RAF in the last war, encouraged by *The Wizard of Oz* released in 1939, to speak of wizard prangs.

But other war slang has cut a permanent foothold in the language. To get one's finger out is current slang, though it is forgotten that it refers to nothing more sexy than constipation in starving Japanese prisoner-of-war-camps. We can still talk of "swanning" around without sounding old. All the printed citations date this metaphor to tanks in the desert war in North Africa, the earliest being recorded in 1942. It refers to the habit of swans, as seen every morning with the flock of 30 cygnets on the Round Pond, of taking off noisily for no serious purpose and with laborious commotion.

But for once there is persuasive oral evidence for the etymology of slang. "To swan" was originally private language (which is how slang starts) of the 8th Hussars stationed in Cairo before the war. The witness is General (Sir John) Shan Hackett, third generation Hussar and serious classical scholar as well as soldier. A rich young captain called Jumbo Phillips owned expensive polo ponies but he had no seat and held a loose rein. His brother officers used to say: "There goes Jumbo, swanning around again." They were referring to the way that he let his horse's neck sag like a feckless swan's.

Then, to their grief and horror, their horses were taken away, and the golden cavalry boys were retrained to ride less flexible and uglier carriers such as tanks. And by the time the 8th Hussars returned to the desert, their generals were holding O groups about mechanical "swanning" around. The first known printed reference is to Rommel breaking up his armour into small groups of tanks, and swanning about in all directions, feeling for British tanks, driving out into the wide yellow yonder on spec, as swans do, before returning with wonderful whistling of wings whence they laboriously took off. It would be a charm of language if the origin of our current phrase went back to Jumbo on his expensive pony, both dead in the desert more than 50 years ago.

I believe it. In any case, VE-Day has left many such permanent and endearing runes in the language.

When he took out his endowment policy, **Neil Bennett**, a financial journalist, did not foresee the problems

When the roof falls in on a mortgage

A new financial peril has loomed up in my household budget. The Office of Fair Trading yesterday depicted endowment mortgages in the role of financial black holes, foisted on unwitting housebuyers by pushy salesmen. Unfortunately, I own one.

Millions of homeowners have endowment mortgages, and few until yesterday barely gave them a second thought. They pay the monthly instalments automatically by direct debits and expect at the end of 25 years that something magical will happen and the money stored in the policy will pay off the mortgage to ensure them a long and peaceful retirement.

Now the OFT says things are not that simple. A fall in investment returns on the world's share and bond markets mean that today's policies may no longer grow enough to repay a home loan when they mature in 20 or 25 years' time. They may eventually need to be topped up with thousands of pounds to do the job intended.

It all seemed so much simpler 18 months ago when my wife and I went to the Halifax to apply for a mortgage. We wanted the house we had seen and wanted it fast. We asked for the simplest quickest mortgage they could arrange. Suddenly, like almost two-thirds of all mortgage applicants today, we found ourselves signing an endowment policy.

Even as a financial journalist I did not bother to ask if the monthly payments I was agreeing to would repay my mortgage. I just assumed that Standard Life, the firm selling the policy, would get it right. I was of course being naive. Standard Life has no more idea than anyone else about what investment returns will be over the next 25 years. It takes an educated, conservative guess. The security of our home and retirement rely on that guess.

Although buying a house is the biggest financial transaction most people will ever make, they are astonishingly careless about the way they set about financing it. People dimly sense they are spending tens and hundreds of thousands of pounds, but it does not always seem like real money. Cheques fly from the building society to the solicitors and back again and people carelessly sign away thousands when normally they would get excited about 10p off butter at Tesco.

When arranging a mortgage, the one figure that people look at most closely is the monthly repayment. This, however, is the most dangerously misleading figure of all. Not only, as the last recession showed, can a sudden rise in interest rates double or treble repayments, but this figure ignores how the capital value of the house will eventually be repaid.

Traditionally, building societies always offered repayment mortgages. These were simple and safe, with borrowers repaying a small piece of the capital of their home each month along with the interest.

The endowment mortgage is a strange hybrid that rapidly rose in popularity during the Eighties. At first the whole concept seemed to defy gravity. Borrowers would pay less than on a repayment mortgage, and endowments were still generating enough cash to produce a handsome bonus when they matured.

The rise of the endowment mortgage was also a bonanza for the life assurance companies and the salesmen. The life companies saw their assets swell by billions of pounds on which they earned generous management fees. The salesmen made large front-end commissions on every policy sold, sometimes consuming all of the policyholders' instalments for the first 18 months, or more than £800 on a policy for a £50,000 mortgage. Little wonder that, by the end of the Eighties, endowment mortgages accounted for four out of every five sold. Because the monthly repayments were cheaper, the borrowers never bothered to investigate who was creaming off a profit from the deal.

In reality, an endowment mortgage is a combustible combination of investment and debt, that should only be mixed with care. The long-term security of our house is now dependent on the world's stock and bond markets. Standard Life is a reputable firm, but if its fund managers blow a fuse and decide to have a flutter on Malaysian derivatives and lose the lot, my endowment policy's bonuses are going to look decidedly sickly. With men like Nick Leeson roaming the world's capital markets, it is enough to cause a few sleepless nights.

At the same time, the state of my endowment policy is enough to make me, as a 29-year-old, rail at my parents' generation. It was they who rode the crest of the housing boom, making vast profits on each house they bought, before sucking me into the market at the height of the boom and leaving me with £10,000 in negative equity.

Now I discover that endowment policies have gone the same way. The previous generation did so well out of them that they paid off their home and had enough left for a new car and a world cruise. By contrast I will probably be left topping mine up each year, hoping it will just about make ends meet. Sometimes, I just wish I had been older.

A salute for Trafalgar Square

The empty plinth in the northwest corner of one of London's most famous spaces needs a statue. The Prime Minister must turn his mind to a suitable subject

Simon Jenkins

The sword lies quivering in the stone. Palmerston, Disraeli and Gladstone could not withdraw it. Lloyd George and Churchill tried and were found wanting. Lady Thatcher dared not even make the attempt. So now, step forward our John. Show yourself a man in this pantheon of pygmies. Grasp the hilt and tug.

I refer to the Challenge of the Empty Plinth. Ever since Trafalgar Square was laid out in the 1830s, a rectangular platform at its northwest corner by the Sainsbury wing has stood unfilled. No public figure has been considered worthy of the honour. Monarchs and military heroes have been suggested, but authority has recoiled in horror from the controversy. In this month of anniversary, the challenge is to take place again. The Royal Society of Arts is colluding with the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association for plinth candidates. Interested parties are being consulted. John Major is already quaking in his boots. He knows this is more than cultural patronage. It is a test of his fitness to rule. He must rise to the challenge or the Monument to the Unknown Pigeon will be a monument to his own indecision.

Public statues are a neglected art. They show their true potency only when there is a proposal to erect or move them. Every argument for an idea has ten arguments against, and ten against one normally wins. Mountbatten, Eisenhower and Mandela are, to my knowledge, the only heroes to pass muster in recent years. The existing inhabitants of Trafalgar Square, apart from Nelson himself, are not distinguished. Generals Napier and Havelock share the south side, and the matching plinth in the northeast corner contains Chantrey's bizarre George IV. He sits on a horse in what appear to be his underclothes and a dressing gown, without saddle, boots or stirrups. The King commissioned it himself for the top of Marble Arch, for what was then the staggering price of 9,000 guineas. That was royal megalomania with style.

Most London statues are in the wrong place. There should be a grand general post. Tedious generals line Whitehall. Marvellous ones languish in the shadows. Gladstone should be where Smuts is, in Parliament Square. Smuts should be where Ralegh is, by the Ministry of Defence. Ralegh should be where Gladstone is, within hailing distance of Elizabeth I at the end of Fleet Street. The superb portrayal of General Gordon is in that unvisited valhala of the great, Embankment Gardens. It was moved from Trafalgar Square when Lutyens's fountains were built. A fine John Stuart Mill sits unnoticed near by. As for Byron, nobody can see him on his Park Lane traffic island, nor Dr Johnson in The Strand, nor the first Quintin Hogg in Portland Place. Statues cannot be contemplated from passing cars, least of all when surrounded by them.

The Trafalgar Square plinth is oblong and is best suited to a large quadruped. The obvious candidate is the Queen on horseback. As yet she has no statue in the land. She would be portrayed in the role most familiar to the world, sitting side-saddle while Trooping the Colour, diminutive, vulnerable but always regal. It would be the last equestrian statue of a public person that would still signify: soldiers and politicians no longer ride ceremonially, nor does the Queen. The Palace is said to be averse to statues of reigning monarchs, but since pictures of the Queen adorn public buildings, I cannot see what is wrong in a statue. There is apparently one of her in Canada. The young Queen on a horse looking down on the square would make a delightful and moving contrast to her ancestor at the other end of the terrace.

The Public Monuments Association cannot face the controversy of a modern sculpture. Desperate to get anything erected, it has a list of works that might be moved to the plinth from elsewhere. Its favourite is another version of General Gordon, this time on a camel. A splendid work by Onslow Ford, it once stood round the corner in St Martin's Place before being shipped to Sudan. Casts are in Chatham and Woking. Second and third preferences are a John Foley of Lord Hardinge and an Onslow Ford of Lord Strathnairn, both chosen for their scenic quality rather than historical distinction. These are not exciting ideas.

PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Queen on horseback, Trooping the Colour, would be an ideal statue

Other suggested runners (some gathered by Prue Leith for the Royal Society of Arts) range from the sublime to the ridiculous. They include Cobbett on a Rural Ride, a mounted policeman, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother patting Red Rum, Lady Thatcher on a chariot, an Elizabeth Frink, an ornamental pigeon loft, Winnie the Pooh and (from a Turner Prize enthusiast) nothing at all since the plinth is already a statue. Unless and until the Queen changes her mind, I would treat it as an extension of the National and Portrait Galleries. Use it as a temporary site for modern sculpture, changing each year. Either sponsor a contemporary portrayal of a well-known figure or display any suitable work of public art. Something is better than nothing, however angry it happens to make the public.

All I know for certain is that any consultation on this topic will kill it stone dead. The negative consensus will operate. Start a campaign and Mr Major will summon his Cabinet Secretary and get in a state. They will discuss an advisory group and have a row over who should be on it. David Hunt will be asked to head a committee, which will become "a mistake from which we must learn next time". The Heritage Department will circulate a memorandum which the Home Office and Treasury will rubbish. The Prime Minister will be advised by his press secretary against making any public statement, after which he will instantly make a public statement. The Chief Whip will detect a dozen "plinth rebels" gathering to plot Mr Major's downfall.

This way nothing will happen. In no time at all, the candidates, alive or dead, will have been humiliated. The living ones will let it be known that wild horses would not drag them to the plinth. The dead ones will speak through the medium of Lord St John of Fawsley to much the same effect. The doctrine of Unfortunate Precedent will cement an alliance with the doctrine of Unripe Time. Sage heads will murmur about kicking the issue into touch. Every Whitehall gremlin will conspire to ensure that there is a delay. The corner of Trafalgar Square will remain empty.

Ideas for the statue *include the Queen* Mother patting Red Rum, Lady Thatcher on a chariot, Winnie the Pooh — and *nothing at all*

The whole point of the Challenge of the Empty Plinth is that *there is only one way to fill it*. The Prime Minister must decide and act alone. He can choose anybody he wants to honour. The plinth belongs to the Government. It is empty. There is nothing to demolish, nobody to upset, only the cost of the statue to meet. As Lady Thatcher showed over her £10 million for the Thiessen collection, Prime Ministers can find money for art if they want it. The statue can always be moved later if the public hates it. Statues have been moved all over London.

Acting alone is what Mr Major finds most difficult. The hardest decision for any ruler is the decision that does not have to be taken. How to fill an empty plinth is unimportant and supremely postponable. It merely concerns beauty and ugliness. That is why it is a good test of executive leadership. Prime Ministers since Palmerston have funked it. Mr Major could funk it and blame it on his predecessors. That is easy. If he does funk it, his successors will add him to the list of culprits. But if he fills that plinth he will richly deserve the Arthurian accolade. We will find another one somewhere, for him, his suit and his soapbox.

Rats and fat cats

THE TIMES DIARY

WANTED: Conservative Members of Parliament with a blameless voting record, willing to become government ministers. Car provided, plus salary of around £45,000 a year. No previous experience or qualifications necessary. Long-term prospects dim. Hours long and irregular. An impeccably virtuous personal life essential. Apply: John Major, 10 Downing Street.

Top Tory chiefs fear that after grappling with the "bastards" within his ranks, our Prime Minister is facing a threat from "rats", that is, junior and middle-ranking ministers who have indicated that they would prefer to leave the Government this summer and return to the back benches.

Although the reasons the ministers give vary, one senior party official believes they are driven by a similar anxiety: "They're worried that we'll lose the election and there won't be enough lucrative posts for ex-ministers to go around," he says. But if they leave office now, they might pick up jobs quickly. There is also the threat of Lord Nolan tightening the ministers-into-fat-cats rules, ruling out a quick transition into the private sector.

Such ministers, it is said, have seen ex-Cabinet ministers such as David Mellor, Norman Lamont, Lord Wakeham and John MacGregor treble their salaries on departure from office. The latest to be seen grinning in the Commons is Tim Yeo, newly appointed chairman of a private health firm.

One leading City headhunter reports: "We've had a few ministers inquiring about jobs in the past year. But, unless they have experience in the business world, they don't understand that there is not much call for career politicians out here."

● *Life has imitated art in a theatre in Sasahala Piala, Bangladesh. During a play, based on a folk drama about a mythical figure who is bitten by a venomous snake, one of the actors was genuinely bitten by the snake he was clutching and died on stage. Some of the audience refused to leave the theatre, waiting patiently — and fruitlessly — throughout the night for the hero to recover.*

Well suited

AMID the furore over Sir Winston Churchill's legacy comes news of one piece of memorabilia which cannot be bought for love nor lottery money. It is a bottle-green siren suit (complete with patches camouflaging the cigar burns), designed personally by the man.

"It was the original jump suit," says Ken Williams of Turnbull & Asser, the Jermyn Street shirt-makers, who made up the prototype garments. "He found them so comfortable he even had one in black for evening wear."

With its zip up the front and wide legs, the suits were ideal for slipping on quickly in the middle of the night for emergency War Cabinet meetings. His widow Clementine gave T & A the suit that it was repairing when Sir Winston died.

"In terms of memorabilia it is worth a lot of money," boasts Williams. "But it is part of *our* archives — and, no, it is *not* for sale."

● *In the cut-throat world of London arts there is no deadlier rivalry than that between the Barbican and the South Bank Centre. Now I hear the Barbican has won a notable coup: it has pinched the South Bank's director of music, Graham Sheffield, to become its new arts director.*

Twice bitten

THOSE questions accepted by Tory MPs David Tredinnick and Graham Riddick are turning out to be extremely dear. As they languish in limbo for accepting £1,000 each, I learn that in addition to losing their parliamentary salary during their suspension from the Commons, the taxman may soon be demanding his pound of flesh — namely, £400 from each of them. Even Riddick, who later returned the cheque, will have to pay up.

"If the payment is an emolument, the tax charge cannot be removed," confirms my man at the Inland Revenue. Although he cannot comment on specific cases he adds: "The individual would still be liable even if he or she had repaid it."

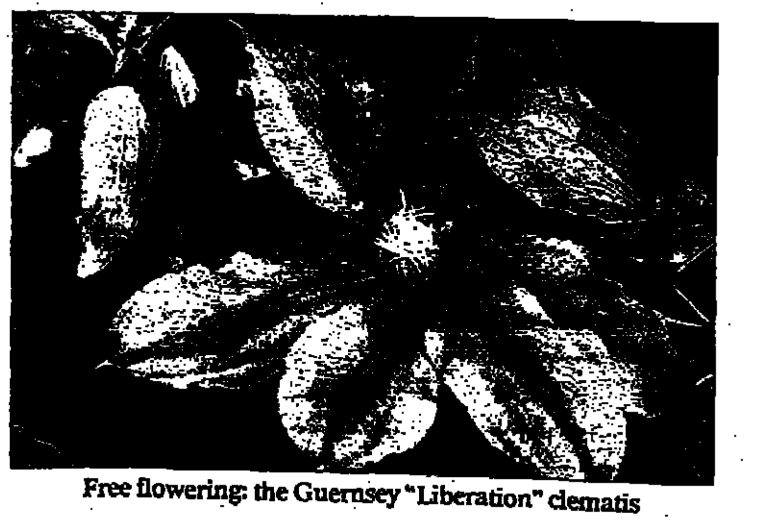
"We're worried he's going to drift into medicine."

Head case

TO BE hatted or not to be hatted. The question has convulsed the Bedale Hunt during the past season since two of its most loyal ladies, Lady Kitson and Mrs Nancy Staveley, were photographed in *Hunting* magazine wearing riding hats while partaking of the North Yorkshire Hunt's breakfast.

It provoked a stream of letters disputing whether or not the ladies were correctly dressed. Now that the hunting season has come to an end, Lady Kitson has decided to admit that she was, to use her words, "one of the culprits" when in the company of Mrs Staveley, who has clocked up 71 opening meets.

"With such an experienced and illustrious partner in crime, I was confident of being correctly attired," explains her Ladyship, who has ridden with the Bedale for a mere 35 years. "In any case, when I went hunting with the Quorn, ladies were *asked* to wear their hats at breakfast."



Free flowering: the Guernsey "Liberation" clematis

Petal power

GUERNSEY will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its liberation from German occupation with a brilliant new variety of clematis called Liberation. The deep pinky-blue flowers will have their debut showing at a special stand at the Chelsea Flower Show next month.

A spokesman for the exhibitors, Channel Island Postals, says: "We developed the clematis to be sure that it would flower at the right time, and on May 9 it will be in full bloom. We also wanted it to be liberal and free-flowering in its growth as a symbol of freedom."

P·H·S

THE GODFATHER JETSET

Crime-fighting is still in the age of steam

Immune to business cycles, unhampered by trade quotas or tariffs and easily outstripping customs officers, organised international crime is increasing its turnover at the rate of 5 per cent a year. These syndicates are now mighty corporate empires, with combined turnover exceeding £520 billion — larger than the national budgets of many of the countries in which they operate.

Because of concerns about sovereignty, international conventions on fighting crime deal only with piracy and drug trafficking. But frontiers are the criminal's friend. Law enforcement stops at national borders and so does too much prevention and detection work. The ninth quinquennial United Nations congress on the prevention of crime opens in Cairo today; it is an opportunity for Britain and other governments to work out agreed rules for countering transnational crime and for seizing the syndicates' assets.

Modernisation of the fight against crime is imperative because criminals have been quick to see the advantages of global economic integration. Were crime a legal enterprise, it would be the pride of free-market economists. The insular world of the Godfather, of shoot-outs between rival street-gangs, has not been entirely left behind. But more typical of today's cartels is the language of the management consultant: diversification, R&D and stress on combining strategic alliances with high degrees of autonomy for local "managements". An example of these global corporate strategies was the deal recently uncovered by Operation Green Ice, a 10-nation police investigation, between Cosa Nostra and Colombia's Cali cartel. In return for cocaine franchises in Europe, the Mafia helped the Cali ring to diversify into the New York heroin market.

Coordinated investigations such as Green Ice are still exceptional. In Naples last year, the British Government told the UN ministerial conference on organised crime that there must be "no safe havens and no hiding places". Closing loopholes by synchronising national laws and penal codes is an obvious step forward. But agreement will be difficult without an accepted definition of what constitutes transnational crime.

These syndicates trade not just in goods such as drugs, arms and body parts, but in services. The criminal services industry has branched out from the white slave trade, to child trafficking and illegal immigration rings which "serve" around a million migrants a year, at an estimated annual profit to the organisers of £2 billion. The syndicates themselves use increasingly sophisticated services: money-laundering has become a highly developed business, employing investment analysts and accountants as skilled as any the City can muster. The US Treasury estimates that of the funds invested in newly privatised banks in Mexico, a quarter was illicit in origin. Yet there is so far no sign of international agreement on making money laundering a crime in all countries, or on seizing assets relating to crimes other than drug-trafficking.

At Cairo, Argentina has followed up on the Naples conference by proposing a new, legally binding international convention on organised transnational crime. The Americans object on grounds of cost as well as sovereignty. But the cost of implementing UN conventions is minor compared with existing national expenditures: in the US, the annual bill for the criminal justice system, private security and property losses comes to $200 billion. Britain will argue, as it did at Naples, that governments should implement existing conventions before contemplating new ones. Normally that is a sound principle, and the difficult birth of Europol underlines the reluctance of governments to pool crime-fighting resources. But the "practical measures" that Britain wants would be more readily attainable within the framework of a treaty, because it would increase the pressure on states to co-operate. Crime is on the move; the UN is right to keep prodding governments to match the pace.

A PLAN FOR THE TESTS

How to survive the new national examinations

The country is about to become a vast exam hall. This is the first summer in which tests for seven, 11 and 14-year-olds will all be compulsory. When GCSE and A-level candidates are taken into account, almost three million young people will be sitting examinations this year.

Tests upon which a child's future may depend can be as nerve-racking for parents as for the examinee — if not more so. On Monday, as *The Times*'s contribution to reducing the strain and to backing a programme we have long supported, we are launching Testplan, a unique service for readers whose children are sitting national tests in the weeks ahead.

For a fortnight, our education staff and other expert writers will provide a guide to the examinations which pupils will be sitting in classrooms all over the country. Each day, advice will be offered to families about what the new tests mean, what they will be like, and how candidates can improve their chances of performing well.

In any new examination for children, a clear sense of what is expected is essential. Yet clarity has been sorely lacking in the first years of the new tests. The introduction of the new system was marred by ideological squabbles, excessive bureaucracy and bad relations between ministers and the teaching profession. For two years, the national tests were successfully boycotted by teachers outraged by the additional workload and — in some cases — opposed to the very principle of testing. Both the end of the boycott and the reform of the tests by Sir Ron Dearing were welcome events in themselves. But many parents remain confused about a system which seems so far to have generated more heat than light.

In fact, the tests are improving all the time. There is a greater emphasis upon pencil-and-paper examinations than before and upon key skills such as spelling and handwriting. The papers in English, mathematics and science taken by 11 and 14-year-olds will be marked by external examiners. This means the workload for their teachers will be less daunting than it might have been. It also means that marking will be more standardised and that grades awarded to pupils in different schools will be broadly comparable.

There is evidence that the pressure of tests is encouraging a welcome return to traditionalist teaching methods in schools. The tests for 14-year-olds are already being used to help teachers to stream pupils before their GCSEs. Some, however, have gone further and interpreted the new papers for 11-year-olds as a return to the spirit of the old selective 11-plus. This is not so. Their main purpose will be to identify academic strengths and weaknesses in children, thus helping teachers to develop their pupils' potential and address their problems. The tests at this level will also indicate which primary schools in a particular area are performing well.

When parents see the league tables which rank school performance, it is essential that they understand what is being measured. The best schools have taken the tests in their stride and many set their pupils "mock" papers to acclimatise them to the new system. Some are holding special parents' evenings to discuss the examinations. But such services are still comparatively rare. For families looking for a helping hand this year rather than next, we hope that the *Times* Testplan will be the best possible start.

HOWZAT FOR HERITAGE

Lottery largesse should also go to school games

Many children will be having their first cricket nets of the season today. Sightscreens have replaced goalposts on the playing fields. But the immemorial clack of leather on willow, the flickering figures in white flannels and the smell of mown grass will be less apparent than in previous starts to the season.

This week the MCC held a meeting for school cricket masters and coaches to discuss the steady decline of cricket as the principal English summer sport. More than 200 of them turned up in the Long Room, under the portraits of the game's patriarchs, to discuss ways of reviving their game in schools. But most of them came from independent schools. It is in state schools, those attended by nine out of ten children, that cricket has declined most calamitously.

Not all reasons for cricket's fall are bad. Children who are frightened of being hit by hard balls or have no co-ordination between hand and eye can be given more profitable activity than that of scorers, umpires or spectators. New summer options, such as tennis and athletics, gymnastics and orienteering, can be as healthy training for character as keeping a straight bat and one's head over the ball.

But many of the reasons for cricket's decline are unsatisfactory. The number of teachers willing to coach in nets and take teams to matches after statutory hours has reduced. Playing-fields have been recklessly sold and the heresy that team games are unacceptably élitist, because some children are better at them than others, has gained ground.

The Government has retreated precipitously from its widely vaunted plans to revitalise team games in schools. The sorry paradox at the beginning of a new cricket season is that the man doing most to encourage team games for Britain's underprivileged and underexercised young is an ambiguous French role model: Eric Cantona is doing his football coaching only because of a court order.

Money is not the only thing to revive team games in schools. Commitment, enthusiasm and love of both the game and children are needed. But money could help a great deal. It was unfortunate timing that the first lottery largesse towards "good causes" went to buy a Scottish grouse moor and priceless historic documents that many thought belonged to the State already. The next distribution of bounty should now go to a popular cause supported by a wider range of those who buy the tickets. Team games were invented by London apprentices, codified by Victorian schoolteachers and are part of the British heritage shared by all classes, especially the gambling classes. The Prime Minister recognises this. So should the great and not so great who hand out the money.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Who will benefit from purchase of Churchill papers?

From Mrs Caroline Clayden

Sir, Sir Winston Churchill's papers (reports, April 27, 28; leading article and letter, April 28) are a record not only of his own sacrifices but of those of everyone who gave so much to preserve our freedom: freedom for me to write this letter; freedom for Winston Churchill to become an MP.

Giving the papers to the nation would have been a tribute to all who gave without counting the cost.

Winston Churchill, in taking money for the papers — even from those very pensioners who, with his grandfather, fought for our freedom — does a disservice to us all and makes me ashamed.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE CLAYDEN,
The Old School, Holcombe, Somerset.
April 28.

From Mr Stanley J. Blenkinsop

Sir, Churchill himself was not above deliberately blurring the distinction between the ownership of public and private documents.

There was some postwar criticism of Field Marshal Montgomery when it became public knowledge that he had kept among his souvenirs the instrument of surrender by the German armies which he had signed on Luneburg Heath in May 1945.

Churchill defended Monty's action, stressing that the personal acquisition of such trophies should be an example of what young officers might themselves eventually garner as a result of their own careers. Monty, he said, was "entitled to keep the receipt".

In 1968, shortly after his house had been burgled, Monty passed the document, free of charge, to the Imperial War Museum.

Yours sincerely,
STANLEY J. BLENKINSOP,
22 Roan Court,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.
April 27.

From Mr A. T. Clark

Sir, If, today, you asked a committee of 12 company chairmen — paying themselves collectively say £12.5 million in one year — to write and deliver just one of Churchill's wartime speeches, and our lives depended on it, do you really believe that there would be the slightest chance of our being saved?

The questionable "market-forces" policy has indeed been exposed, when some MPs complain.

Good luck to the Churchill family. What better present on the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe?

Yours faithfully,
A. T. CLARK,
Winterseeds, Church Path,
Shipton-under-Wychwood,
Oxfordshire.
April 28.

From Mr David Lort-Phillips

Sir, One way to defuse the row would be for the family to pass all or most of the lottery payout to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, in order to help it finance the travelling fellowships scheme which has done so much for so many individuals and for the improvement of international understanding

That would be a magnificent gesture which would take all the rancour out of the argument.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID LORT-PHILLIPS,
Knowles Farm, Lawrenny,
Kilgetty, Pembrokeshire.
April 27.

From Mr R. W. Dunk

Sir, To most people the VE-Day jollifications will represent a day's holiday; no more than that, simply because they don't remember Churchill. But to septuagenarians such as myself, who remember those dark days and Winston's inspiring role, it is a time to thank God for placing him in Britain at the right time.

I see no reason why his family should not benefit from the sale of his papers. They will remain in the UK, where they rightfully belong, as an inspiration to those who follow on. I cannot think of a more worthy cause for the proceeds from the National Lottery.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. DUNK,
Hilltop House,
Cuckney, Nottinghamshire.
April 27.

From Professor H. W. Simpson

Sir, David Mellor, an architect of the lottery and critical of the Churchill purchase, said on Channel 4 News tonight that the funds were intended for the preservation of the heritage.

Those who lived through the critical years may think that is exactly why they have been purchased for the nation.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. SIMPSON,
7 Cleveden Crescent,
Glasgow 12.
April 27.

From Mr G. R. Pymer

Sir, Mr Winston Churchill would do well to remember that during the last world war the British public paid a very high price to ensure that this land was a fit enough place for all our grandchildren, including him, to live in. The public will not be happy to pay through the nose again.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. PYMER,
68 Valley Road,
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.
April 27.

From Mr Bruce Anderson

Sir, To describe Churchill as "a good Tory" (your leading article, April 28) is an over-simplification, but he did believe in the rights of property. He also chose to give his papers, not to the nation, but to a family trust.

On the 50th anniversary of VE-Day his decision should be respected, as the Government did. It was right to acquire the Churchill papers by purchase rather than by confiscation or moral blackmail.

Far from acting dishonourably, Winston Churchill, MP, has merely benefited from his grandfather's foresight. So have we all.

Yours etc,
BRUCE ANDERSON,
Travellers' Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
April 28.

From Mr Richard Bacon

Sir, Bernie Grant, MP, is too dismissive of "a load of old words" (report, April 27). When Martin Luther King dreamt of a day when his children would "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character", he inspired a generation in their struggle against the evil of racism by the use of "mere words".

When Churchill used words to inspire the people of this country, he saved us from destruction as a free nation. If that is not worth cherishing, what is?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BACON,
86 Gloucester Street, SW1.
April 27.

From Mr David Brown

Sir, Does the value of the Churchill archives lie in their content, or in the fact that they were handled, written, annotated by him?

If the former, then modern technology, in the form of CD-Rom, could render them accessible to the academic community, for an appropriate fee to the estate. The originals could then be sold to whoever thinks their intrinsic value to be millions of pounds. Then everyone could be happy.

Faithfully,
DAVID BROWN,
6 Camp Rise,
Pontefract, West Yorkshire.
April 28.

From Mr Colin G. Wright

Sir, I wonder if the National Heritage Memorial Fund would be interested in purchasing my carefully preserved collection of unpublished letters to *The Times*.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN G. WRIGHT,
12 Lexwell Avenue,
Elderslie, Renfrewshire.
April 27.

Rejected memorial

From Ms Jo Darke

Sir, The Lake District planning officer's mention of "clutter", referring to Alfred Wainwright's rejected memorial stone (report, April 18), shows marked insensitivity to that region's existing monuments.

These stones, too, honour with simple dignity those whose lives recall the place they knew so well: breeders of Heatherwick sheep, on Lonscale Fell; John Ruskin, immortalised at Friar's Crag; a faithful dog whose stone rests on Helvellyn; and, overlooking Wast Water, a master of the hounds — "He's away my lads, away!".

Presumably these enriching stones would be refused by today's planners.

Yours truly,
JO DARKE
(Chief Executive, Public Monuments and Sculpture Association),
72 Lissenden Mansions,
Lissenden Gardens, NW5.
April 20.

Carry-on luggage

From Mr Laurence Rostron

Sir, As a regular air traveller, I would welcome any new ticketing arrangements that reduce check-in times and minimise queues ("End of the airport queue", Travel News, April 20).

Your report, however fails to mention the new joint European airline regulations which are due to come into force on May 9. These will restrict carry-on baggage for economy passengers to only 6kg. To some airlines this will be a reduction from 10kg, and to others an increase from 5kg.

A change of clothes, toiletries, a laptop, a mobile phone, a calculator and a few papers quickly rise above 6 kilos, and this regulation will, as I see it, effectively spell the end of the overnight carry-on bag.

I believe that notwithstanding any new ticketing arrangements, the inevitable outcome will be increased check-in baggage, increased check-in queues and increased delays.

British Airways have expressed themselves as being "pleased" with the new regulations and this appears to tie in with a more negative attitude towards carry-on luggage that I have perceived in recent months.

The real answer to airport queues is a combination of improved ticketing and an increased carry-on luggage allowance, so that the need to wait in check-in queues is eliminated for many more passengers.

Yours sincerely,
LAURENCE ROSTRON,
Grace Cottage, Church Lane,
Nr Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire.

Labour's record

From Mr David Hill

Sir, In his column of April 25, "The cost of voting Labour", Woodrow Wyatt asserts in typical fashion that with Labour councils "by and large the council tax is far higher, the education is greatly inferior and the standard of all services is well below that in Conservative-controlled areas". Now for the facts.

House of Commons Library figures show that, on average, you pay £37 less in council tax under a Labour council than if you live in a Tory area. And £50 less than in a Liberal Democrat area.

Of the ten councils with the best nursery provision, nine are Labour. Labour-controlled Lancashire has more students entering higher education than any other area in the country.

Of the 16 most efficient councils designated by the Local Government Management Board eight are Labour and only two are Tory. Eight of the top ten providers of care for the elderly are Labour councils.

Of the top 16 housing authorities identified by the Government nine are Labour, two are Tory and none is Liberal Democrat.

When you add to all this the fact that Labour now controls more councils and has more council seats than ever in its history, Woodrow Wyatt might just accept that voters are more impressed by their local experience than by his distortions. And if he won't, many of your readers might.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID R. HILL
(Chief Media Spokesperson),
The Labour Party,
John Smith House,
150 Walworth Road, SE17.

Restoration of whip

From Sir George Gardiner, MP for Reigate (Conservative)

Sir, Your editorial (April 25) concerning the restoration of the whip to those MPs excluded from it last November overlooks what is probably their greatest achievement: they have established that never again will a Conservative Prime Minister turn a vote on European legislation into an issue of confidence, since the consequences of doing so would be too awful to contemplate.

Yours etc,
GEORGE GARDINER,
House of Commons.
April 26.

Memorial trees

From Mr Emile Al-Uzaizi

Sir, The Highways Agency has devoted much time to considering how best to replace the avenue of maple trees which was planted at Bramshott in Hampshire after the First World War as a memorial to fallen Canadian servicemen.

The trees had to be felled because of their deteriorating condition and the risks they posed to users of the A3 (report; later editions, April 6; Mr David Childs's letter, April 20).

After consultation with the Canadian High Commission and others we have imported over 200 maple trees from Canada and planted them on either side of the road on Ministry of Defence land.

The new avenue will be visible from the roadside and will replicate the original to a certain extent, but at a safe distance from the carriageway.

The new planting began on April 6, and a commemorative ceremony will be held on June 25, coinciding with a visit Canadian servicemen make every year for a memorial service at Bramshott on that date.

Using tree trunks from the original avenue we will construct a lectern with a mounted commemorative plaque to the Canadian servicemen, and some seats which we will present to the local church where the service is to be held.

I have contacted Mr Childs with the offer of a number of Canadian maples for planting in the National Memorial Arboretum together with a seat made from the trunk of one of the felled trees from the original memorial avenue.

Yours faithfully,
EMILE AL-UZAIZI
(Head of Maintenance),
Highways Agency, Southern Network Management Division,
Senet House,
Station Road, Dorking, Surrey.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Press watchdog without teeth

From Mr Joe Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw (Labour)

Sir, Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, announces that as complaints are up by more than a third, ordinary people now feel the commission is effective (report, April 22). Surely it shows the opposite: if self-regulation was working there would be fewer complaints, not more.

The fact is that the commission can never be a really independent ombudsman so long as it has members of its jury with a vested interest in "not guilty" verdicts.

Neither can it ever be a professional body or industry watchdog like the BMA, or the Law Society, or even the Football Association, when it refuses to introduce self-imposed sanctions to fine, or suspend, those who bug telephones, plant tape recorders, act as *agents provocateurs*, break embargoes, ignore agreements not to print photographs of rape victims, or pay for pictures of women with their legs in the air in gymnasiums, or use methods of entrapment to gain "evidence" which would be immediately thrown out of any court of law.

All the commission is currently doing is operating a "highway code" where the only penalty for going through a red light and seriously damaging an innocent victim is a censure, followed by an apology buried at the bottom of page nine — unless of course the victim is rich enough to take on the hired top barristers of newspapers in the libel courts.

What is even worse, rogue editors know it, and laugh at it.

Yours sincerely,
JOE ASHTON
(Member, National Heritage select committee inquiry into privacy and media intrusion),
House of Commons.
April 22.

Homosexual soldiers

From Major-General A. S. Jeapes (retd)

Sir, The reason why the Army does not want homosexual soldiers ("Labour to allow gays in military", later editions, April 22) is nothing to do with approval or disapproval of homosexuality. It is to do with trust.

In battle, every soldier must be able to trust the other soldiers in his unit completely, knowing that each man counts with the others, but none too much. If two soldiers were to be emotionally involved that essential trust would be destroyed. The others could not rely upon them to act objectively when in danger. For example, would one lover be prepared to leave the other if he were wounded and press home the attack as he must? More important, could his comrades be sure that he would?

The Army exists to do battle. That is what makes it totally different from anything in civilian life. And that is why homosexuals can have no place in, of all professions, a fighting Army.

We have a superb Army, internationally acknowledged. To damage it merely to accommodate the wishes of a small minority or for reasons of so-called "political correctness" would be an act of crass irresponsibility to the nation.

Yours faithfully,
TONY JEAPES,
c/o The Army and Navy Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
April 23.

DVLC records

From Mr R. K. D. Shah

Sir, According to Lord Justice Hirst [Salford Van Hire (Contracts) Ltd v Bocholt Developments Ltd, Law Report, April 22] "a simple telephone call by the bailiff to the DVLC would have established the ownership of the van" in question.

With respect to the learned Lord Justice, it would not. DVLC records relating to vehicles are concerned with their "keepers" and not owners. In any case, it would be wholly improper for the DVLC to divulge such information to anyone simply over the telephone, as it were.

What is involved here is not just an issue of private rights but rather the great potential for public mischief which would be created if DVLC data could be accessed so easily. The police are of course an exception and have their own facilities; but a landlord's bailiff appointed to levy distress for non-payment of rent has no special privileges in this regard and would need to submit a written request for such information.

Yours truly,
RAMNIK SHAH,
Preuveneers & Co (solicitors),
Elm House, 113-115 London Road,
Mitcham, Surrey.

Setting an example

From Mr Adam Johnson

Sir, Presumably, once Miss Jenny Bacon (report and photograph, April 27) takes up her post as Director-General of the Health and Safety Executive, she will desist from cycling on the pavement.

Yours etc,
ADAM JOHNSON,
Flat 6, 45 Jeffreys Road,
Clapham, SW4.
April 27.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 28: The Duke of Edinburgh, Chief Patron, today reviewed member clubs of the Surf Life Saving Association of Great Britain at Bude and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cornwall (the Lady Mary Holborow).

Captain Jonathan Walker was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 28: The Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment this afternoon was present at a Service of Thanksgiving in Gloucester Cathedral to mark the 1st Battalion's return from Bosnia and afterwards accepted the Freedom of the City on behalf of the Regiment.

His Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

Royal engagements

Today

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Rugby Football League challenge cup final at Wembley Stadium at 2.15.

Princess Margaret, as Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Anglian Regiment, will present new colours to the 1st and 2nd Battalions at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridgeshire, at 11.20.

Tomorrow

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF International, will address the opening session and attend a dinner at the second session of the Summit of Religions and Conservation at Windsor Castle at 3.00.

Princess Alexandra will attend the Sir Malcolm Sargent centenary gala concert at the Albert Hall at 6.45.

Memorial service

Brigadier Sir Geoffrey and Lady Macnab

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Mr Rob Young, chief clerk, at a service of thanksgiving for the lives of Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Macnab, a former Secretary of Government Hospitality, and Lady Macnab held yesterday at All Saints, Stanford, Ashford, Kent.

The Rev Frank Kent officiated and gave an address. Mr Percy Coleman read the lesson. Mr Rory McPherson, godson, also gave an address. Colonel Tim Earl, Secretary of the Government Hospitality Fund, represented the fund with Brigadier Alan Cowan, and representatives of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Royal Sussex Regiment were present.

Painter-Stainers' Company

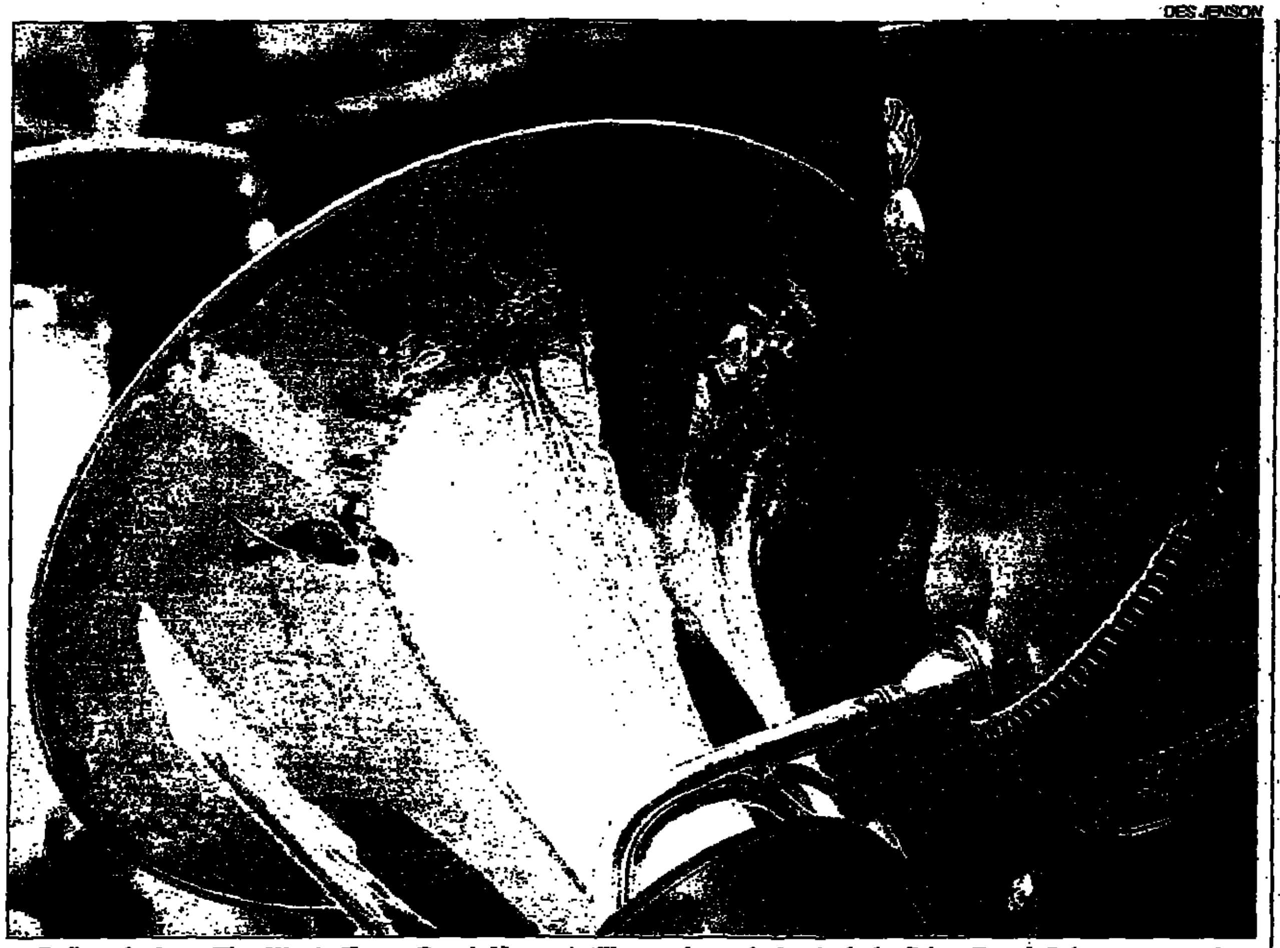
Dr Nicholas A.D. Carey, Director General of the City and Guilds of London Institute, attended the annual prizegiving of the Painter-Stainers' Company held yesterday at Painters' Hall. Mr Gordon A. Luton, Chairman of the Education Committee, presided.

Mr Richard E. Biscoe-Taylor, Master, presented the prizes to achievers of the highest marks in City and Guilds of London Institute Examinations for Painting and Decorating, to the best craft student at a number of technical colleges in the London area, to students at schools connected with the City of London and to colleges including the Royal College of Art, the Royal Academy Schools, the textile department of Leeds University and the Royal National College for the Blind.

Bursaries are also given to students at these colleges and establishments and to the Slade School of Fine Art, the Byam Shaw School of Art, the City and Guilds of London Art School, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, UMIST, The City University, the Hamilton Kerr Institute and the V&A conservation department.

Durham University

Former students of the University of Durham (including King's, Armstrong and Teacher Training Colleges) should have received the spring edition of the new university magazine *Durham First* — (replacement for Kingsgate). Anyone who has not done so is invited to contact the Development Office, Old Shire Hall, Durham, DH1 3HP, for despatch of a copy (or tel: 0191 374 4682).



DES JENSEN

Reflected glory: The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, whose duties include firing Royal Salutes on royal anniversaries and parading on ceremonial occasions, were inspected yesterday in Regent's Park by Major-General Iain Mackay-Dick, General Officer Commanding London District and Major-General Commanding the Household Division. On parade were six gun carriages, 76 horses and 80 officers and soldiers in full ceremonial dress

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.D.S. Archer and Miss S.L. Strickland

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of the late Mr David Archer, and of Mrs Michael Yorke, of Portsmouth, Hampshire, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Strickland, of Hilton, Cambridgeshire.

Mr M.A. Brewerton and Miss C.L. Cooper

The engagement is announced between Marc Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Norman Brewerton, of Blindley Heath, Surrey, and Claire Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth John Cooper, of Hale, Cheshire and Brinkworth, Wiltshire.

Mr A.Q.B. Chaplin and Miss E.K. Clough

The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Chaplin, of Knutsford, Cheshire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Clough, of Prestwich, Manchester.

Mr C.J. Christon and Miss D. Newcombe

The engagement is announced between Carl James, only son of Mr and Mrs Maurice J. Christon, of Loughborough, and Deborah, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Ivan Newcombe, of Newtown Linford.

Dr N.M. Croft and Dr G.A. Dewan

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Dr and Mrs Desmond Croft, of Hurstbourne Priors, Hampshire, and Gita, elder daughter of the late Mr Jatender Dewan and of Mrs Heide Duthie, of Muswell Hill, London.

Mr M.A. Hinton and Miss K.A. Hamilton

The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Dr and Mrs T. Hinton, of Guildford, Surrey, and Katherine Anne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W.I. Hamilton, of Teigh, Rutland.

Mr J.M. Holt and Miss S.M. Lloyd

The engagement is announced between Julian Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs N.J. Holt, of Stockport, Cheshire, and Sandra Mary, eldest daughter of Canon and Mrs H.J. Lloyd, of St Thomas's, Rhyl.

Mr W.P. Hopwood and Miss R.J. Clarke

The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mr and Mrs W. Hopwood, of Northenden, Manchester, and Rachel, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Clarke, of Aldford, Chester.

Mr B. Moullier and Miss J.A. Counihan

The engagement is announced between Bertrand, son of Henri and the late Naïce Moullier, of Paris, and Judy, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Richard Counihan, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr J.R.W. Horton and Miss D.H. Watts

The engagement is announced between John Robert Walter, son of the late Mr Bill Horton and of Mrs Nina Horton, of Felpham, Sussex, and Dorinda Helen, younger daughter of the late Mr Joseph Watts and of Mrs Eileen Watts, of Roche, Cornwall.

Mr J.P. Wall and Miss K.A. Smith

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs John Wall, of Dungarvan, Ireland, and Karen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Smith, of Felixstowe, Suffolk.

Mr C.A. Whitfield and Miss A.C.F. Wilkinson

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Professor and Mrs C.R. Whitfield, of Bearsden, Glasgow, and Abby, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.R. Wilkinson, of Repton, Derbyshire.

Marriage

Mr F. Connell and Mrs C. Le Marchant

A service of blessing took place yesterday at the Dean's Chapel, Windsor Castle, after the marriage of Mr Frederick Connell, son of the late Rev Richard and Mrs Connell, to Mrs Clare Le Marchant, daughter of the late Sir Denis Le Marchant and of Lady Le Marchant, of Hungerton Hall, Grantham, Lincolnshire. The Dean of Windsor officiated.

Lincoln's Inn

Major awards for pupillage 1995

Scholarships

Denning Scholarships: Daniel Lightman, Peter Young; Kennedy Scholarships: Ian Mitchell, June Morris; Cassel Scholarships: Simon Salzedo, Tamara Quinn; Shelford Scholarships: Alexander Nesbitt, Ian Caplin; Droop Scholarships: Simon Batiste; Walter Wigglesworth Scholarship: Justin Menezes, Matthew Johnson; Eastham Scholarship: Robert Stokell, Alexander Ballin; Megarry Scholarships: Thomas Mitchell; Hubert Greenland Scholarship: Philip Evans; Levitt Scholarship: Sally Freeman.

Upjohn Award: Gregory Pipe.

Sir Thomas More Bursaries: Douglas Allen, John Brennan, John Butterfield, Emily Campbell, Alison Clarke, Gregor Ferguson, Emma Godfrey, Patricia Harding, Alex Hickey, Prabhjot Kaur, Joanne Kidd, Andrew Meigh, Mohammed Nawaz, Philip Norman, Julian Orr, Michael Paget, Clive Pugh, Yunus Valli, David Willans, Fraser Woodward.

Hardwicke Entrance Scholarships awarded Hilary Term 1995:

Noel Ainsworth, Rukhsana Ali, Andrew Bodnar, Steven Cairnduff, Andrew Charters, Samantha Clark, Laura Davidson, Daniel Jones, Sarah Margree, Philip Norman, Gregory Pipe, Tamara Quinn.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Sir James Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak 1841-68, Benares, 1803; Alexander II, Tsar of Russia 1855-81, St Petersburg, 1818; William Randolph Hearst, newspaper proprietor, San Francisco, 1865; Sir Thomas Beecham, conductor, St Helens, Lancashire, 1879; Sir Malcolm Sargent, conductor, Ashford, Kent, 1895; Duke Ellington, pianist and bandleader, Washington, 1899.

DEATHS: John Cleveland, Royalist poet, London, 1658; Sir Alfred Hitchcock, film director-producer, Los Angeles, 1980.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: St Jean Baptiste de la Salle, founder of the Christian Brothers, Rheims, 1651; Queen Mary II, reigned with King William III 1689-94, London, 1662; Franz Lehár, composer, Komárom, Hungary, 1870; Jaroslav Hasek, novelist, Prague, 1883.

DEATHS: Edouard Manet, painter, Paris, 1883; Carl Rosa, violinist and founder of the opera company bearing his name, Paris, 1889; A.E. Housman, poet, Cambridge, 1936; Adolf Hitler, German dictator, Berlin, 1945.

Service dinners

Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785

Admiral Sir Michael Layard, Second Sea Lord, presided at a dinner of the Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785 held last night in the wardroom, *HMS Excellent*, to mark the battle of the Hogue. Mr Maldwin Drummond, Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron, was the principal guest.

37th Special Entry, Royal Navy

The 37th Special Entry celebrated the 60th anniversary of their entry at a reunion dinner held last night in HMS Dryad. Rear-Admiral F.C.W. Lawson presided.

51st (Highland) Division

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, was present at a dinner of the 51st (Highland) Division Officers' Club held last night at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, to mark the 50th anniversary of Victory in Europe. Sir Patrick Nairne presided.

No 1 Group RAF

Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Craig of Radley was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the former air officers commanding No 1 Group RAF. Air Vice-Marshal J.R. Day, Air Officer Commanding, and the headquarters staff were the hosts. Squadron Leader G. Bakewell presided.

Dinners

The British-Italian Society

Members of the Society entertained the new Italian Ambassador and Signora Galli at a dinner at the House of Lords last night. Lord Bridges, the Society's chairman, presided.

Society of Young Freemen

Mr Alderman Clive Martin, Master of the Guild of Freemen, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual dinner and dance of the Society of Young Freemen held last night at Guildhall. Mr Stephen Plumb, chairman, was the host. Mr Alderman Roger Cork, president, also attended.

West Yorkshire Lieutenancy

The Deputy Lieutenants of the West Yorkshire Lieutenancy held a dining-in night yesterday evening at Weetwood Hall Hotel, Leeds, in honour of the Lord-Lieutenant. The Vice Lord-Lieutenant presided.

Welsh Livery Guild

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Welsh Livery Guild for Arts Science and Technology held last night at City Hall, Cardiff. Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan and master of the guild, presided. Mr H.E. Paston-Bedingfeld, York Herald of Arms, and Captain R.L. Newbury, deputy master, also spoke. Mr Kenneth Tsekoa, High Commissioner for Lesotho, twinned with Wales, was also present.

Himalayan Club

Mr Dawson Stelfox was the guest of honour and speaker at the annual reunion dinner of the Himalayan Club held last night at the Oriental Club. Mr Robert Pettigrew, honorary secretary Great Britain, presided.

Lecture

John Julius Norwich will deliver a lecture on "Palladianism and the Garden" on Wednesday, May 3, at 6.30pm, at RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London.

Weekend birthdays

The King of Sweden celebrates his 49th birthday tomorrow.

Today

Mr Andre Agassi, tennis player, 25; Mr Frank Auerbach, painter, 64; Mr Jonah Barrington, squash player, 54; Mr Dean Bell, rugby league player, 33; Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, 53; Mr Tom Clarke, Editor, *Sporting Life*, 56; Mr Daniel Day-Lewis, actor, 38; Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, 52; Mrs Ruth Deech, Principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 52; General Sir Peter de la Billière, 61; Mr Lonnie Donegan, skiffle musician and singer, 64; Mr D.S. Elliott, director, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, 46; His Honour Israel Finestein, QC, former president, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 74; Ms Rennie Fritchie, chairman, South and West Regional Health Authority, 53; Sir Patrick Hamill, former Chief Constable, Strathclyde, 65; Miss Zizi Jeanmaire, dancer, 71; Professor David Johns, Vice-Chancellor, Bradford University, 64; Mr Timothy Kirkhope, MP, 50; Sir Anthony Laughton, oceanographer, 68; Miss Elizabeth Lawson, QC, 48; Mr Rod McKuen, poet and composer, 62; Mr Zubin Mehta, conductor, 59; Mr Johnny Miller, golfer, 48; Mr A.W. Nicol, former chairman, South Western Electricity, 62; Sir Fraser Noble, Principal Emeritus, Aberdeen University, 77; Sir Ronald Norman, chairman, Teesside Development Corporation, 58; General Sir Patrick Palmer, Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, 62; Miss Michelle Pfeiffer, actress, 38; Professor B.D. Ripley, statistician, 43; Lord Rothschild, 59; Mr Jeremy Thorpe, former leader, Liberal Party, 66; Mr David Tindle, painter, 63; Professor Heinz Wolff, bioengineer, 67; Mr Fred Zinneman, film director, 88.

Tomorrow

Sir James Adams, diplomat, 63; Mr Peter Ahrends, architect, 62; Dr G.E. Aylmer, former Master, St Peter's College, Oxford, 72; Mrs Janey Buchan, former MEP, 69; Mrs Barbara Calvert, QC, 69; His Honour Sir Robin David, QC, 73; Mr Dickie Davies, sports commentator, 62; Lord Diamond, 88; Dame Isabel Graham-Bryce, former chairman, Oxford Regional Hospital Board, 93; Mr Leslie Grantham, actor, 49; Mr G.M. Guthrie, former chief executive, Mecca Leisure, 54; Mr Tony Harrison, poet, 58; Mr R.J.D. Hazell, director, Nuffield Foundation, 47; Mr W.R. Henry, former chairman, Coats Patons, 80; Mr Alfred Lomas, MEP, 67; Lord McIntosh of Haringey, 62; Mr Keith Povey, Chief Constable, Leicestershire, 52; Lord Sanderson of Bowden, 62.

Church services tomorrow

Second Sunday after Easter

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Harwood in A flat (Bairstow), Jesu the very thought of thee, The Chaplain; 6.30 Diocesan Choral Festival, The Provost.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 M; 10.30 Euch, Manchester Grammar School, Jackson in G, Rev M Wedgeworth; 4 Choral E, O Thou the Central Orb (Wood), Canon M Taylor.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Adoramus te Christe (Lassus), Bairstow in E flat, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Canon A Redfern; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Clucas), Noble in B Minor, Canon A Redfern.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, Rev P Gay; 11 S Euch, Ridout in A, Regina coeli (Soriano), Rev Dr M Chandler; 3.15 E, Responses (Rose), Darke in F; 6.30 Compline, Rev P Brett.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Stanford in B flat & F, Most glorious Lord of Life (Gibbs), Canon D Weston; 3 E, Responses (Byrd), Ireland in F, Sing ye to the Lord (Bairstow).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, The Provost; 11.15 S Euch, Beati quorum via (Stanford), Canon B Thompson; 6 Choral E, Responses / My shepherd is the living Lord (Tomkins), Dyson in F, Canon P Harlow.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral M, Responses (Smith), Stanford in B flat, Dum transisset (Johnson), The Archdeacon; 11.30 Choral Euch, Miss octo vocum (Hassler), O carum convivium (Tallis); 3.30 Choral E, Hear my prayer / Jehovah quam multi (Purcell); Responses (Smith), Purcell in G minor, 6.30 ES, Rev T Baker.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in C, If we believe (Goss), Responses (Reading), Rt Rev E Knapp-Fisher; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Rev B Keaton; 3.30 E, Responses (Reading), Murrill in E, Rise heart (Vaughan Williams).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Darke in F, Lord for thy tender (Anon), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), V Rev C Kiblinger; 5.30 E, A new commandment (Wright), Murrill in E, He is the way (Ridout).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.15 HC, Missa brevis (Leighton), Ubi caritas et amor (Duruflé), Canon R Coppin; 10 M, Ireland in F, Christ our helper and life-giver (Bach), Canon D Brown; 3.30 E, In exitu Israel (Wesley).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in E, God sent his messenger (Sullivan), Loving Shepherd (Rutter), Canon Dr J Tetley; 3.45 E, Stanford in C.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 10 S Euch & Confirmation, O Holy Spirit Lord of Grace (Tye), Setting: Schubert, Listen sweet dove (Grayston Ives), The Lord Bishop; 3 E, Second Service (Gibbons), Lo round the throne (Ley); 6.30 E, Come ye faithful (Thatcher), Rural Dean of Kenn.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, God liveth still (Bach), The Provost; 4 Choral E, Stanford in C, Hallelujah (Handel), Responses (Smith).

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Miss Brevis (Palestrina), Te Deum (Ireland), Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Rev B Cox; 3.30 E, Responses (Tomkins), Collegium St Johannis Cantabrigiense (Howells), Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Kodaly), Acclamations (Walsh), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Ven C Laurence; 11.15 M, Responses (Leighton), Britten in C, Jubilate in B flat / Let all the world (Walton), The Chancellor; 3.45 E, Responses (Stewart), Howells in B minor, The Lord is my shepherd (Stanford).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), Canon M Wolfe; 3 Choral E, Noble in B minor, The Dean; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 12.15 H Euch, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo; 9 Euch, Rev J Redvers Harris; 11 S Euch, Sumsion in F, The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley), The Dean; 3.30 Choral E, Sumsion in G, Vox dicentis Clama (Naylor); 6.30 E, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, St Nicholas Mass (Haydn), Dignus est Agnus (Williamson), V Rev H Dickinson; 11.30 Healing Service; 3 E, Responses (Rose), Westminster Service (Howells), Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), I got me flowers (Vaughan Williams), Christ being raised from the dead (Moore), Rev Canon D Atkinson; 3 E, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley), Rev Canon R Royle.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Curate; 10 S Euch, Hear my prayer (Purcell), Jackson in G, And didst thou travel light (Shephard), The Archdeacon; 4 Truro Trek; 6 E, Responses (Sanders), Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Stanford), The Treasurer.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Jackson in G, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Rev P Walker; 11.30 M, Cantique de Jean Racine (Faure); 3 E, Darke in F, Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams), Rev C Bonneywell; 5 Wessex Walks Service.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Boyce in C, Most glorious Lord of life (Harris), Canon C Semper; 11.15 Euch, Stanford in B flat, I got me flowers (Vaughan Williams), O for a closer walk (Stanford), Canon D Hutt; 3 E, Coll Reg (Howells), V Rev J Carroll; 6.30 ES, Rev J Goodall.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10 MP; 10.30 SM, Missa brevis (Kodaly), Haec dies (Byrd), Allegro maestoso from Symphonie VI (Widor); 3.30 V & B, Ad coe nam Agnis providi (Victoria), Magnificat octavi toni (Bevan), Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Responses (Lloyd), Britten in E flat, How beauteous are their feet (Stanford), Canon Morgan, Fanfare (Whitlock); 11.30 Euch, Missa Sancti Johannes de Deo (Haydn), Ave verum corpus (Mozart); 3.30 E, Coll Reg (Wood), I will lift up mine eyes (Surplice), Rev T Pinner.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Jackson in G, Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Rev Canon J Toy; 11.30 M, Britten in C; 4 E, Blessed be the God & Father (Wesley), Rev Canon G Webster.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in A minor, View me Lord (Loyd), The Dean; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Aylewarg), O Thou the central orb (Wood).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, O quam gloriosam (Victoria), Ave verum (Byrd), Canon James P Pannett.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 MS & HC, Rev J Cuthbertson; 10 M, Mass in G Minor (Vaughan Williams), Rev Dr W Alston; 11.30 MS, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Rev Dr W Alston; 8 ES & HC, Rev Dr J P Newell.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8, 9.30 Euch; 10.15 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Regina coeli (de Kerll), Regina Coeli (Porta), Rev J Halliburton; 3.15 E, Naylor in D, I know that my redeemer liveth (Bach), Rev P Hinchcliffe.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Credomesse (Mozart), Angelus Domini (Casciolini), Rev P McGeary; 6 E&B, Nicholson in D flat, I got me flowers (Vaughan Williams), Rev P McGeary.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11 Rev S Wookey; 6.30, Rev Dr J Stott.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa in illo tempore (Monteverdi), Love is come again (anon), Sicut cervus (Palestrina).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, The day draws on with golden light (Bairstow); 6 E, Rev P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, Johannes de Deo (Haydn), Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Jubilate Deo (Lassus), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Fr J Dooley.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Mr J Jennings; 11 Informal, Rene Padilla; 5, 7 Informal, Rev N Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa brevis in B flat (Mozart), Victimae paschali (Byrd), 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Christus resurgens (Lassus).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 MP, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr R John Tudor.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P D Schmiege; 7 Easter Carols, Music & Readings.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Short Service (Gibbons), Christ is now rysen agayne (Brockless), Rev A Winter; 6.0 E, Short Service (Gibbons), Rejoice in the Lord (Redford), Rev A Winter.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Jubilate (Shepherd), Stainer in D, O sacrum convivium (Guerrero), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Ebdon), Propers for Easter Day (Byrd), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Aircrew Association Annual Service, Te Deum Laudamus (Sumsion in G), Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn).

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 HC, Rev J McIndoe; 3 HC, Rev W Cairns; 6.30, Rev W Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Missa Quaeramus cum pastoribus (Morales), Ave verum (Byrd), Christ ist erstanden (Bach).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rheinberger in E flat, O God thou art my God (Purcell), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch (1662), John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in G, The Lord is my Shepherd (Schubert), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, 2nd Service / Christ Rising (Byrd).

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Aeterna Christi Munera, Rev J Hadley; 6.30 E, O death where is thy sting (Handel), Rev C Beauchamp.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch & Baptism, Jackson in G, Tom Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Darke in E, How lovely are thy dwellings (Brahms), Sr H Markey.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, V Rev G Herwood; 11.30 Visitors, The Vicar; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 ES, Rev B Schunemann.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 9.30 Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11.15 Choral M, Rev P Arnold; 6.30 E, Rev F Gelli.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa Brevis, Capella Regalis (A. Caesar), Fr S Young; 6 E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), O sing joyfully (Batten), Rev J Ovenden; 6 Living with Faith.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Congregational Mass (How), Ascribe unto the Lord (SS Wesley), Rev C Owen.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Double organ mass (Vierne), Rev M Johnson.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Haec Dies (Byrd), Repons pour le temps de Pacques (Demessieux), Fr D B Tillyer.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa à 5 (Cererols), Surgens Jesus (Philips), Victimae Paschali (Byrd), Canon C Colven.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses (Morley), Tallis in 5 parts, Canon J Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams), Canon D Gray.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Responses (Leighton), Dyson in D, The day draws on (Bairstow); 3.30 E, Responses (Rose), This is the day (Anon 16C), Ireland in F, Sing ye to the Lord (Bairstow).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev S Hobbs, Missa Paschalis (Lassus), Surgens Jesus (Philips).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Stanford in C, I was glad (Parry), V Rev J Treadgold, 12.30 HC.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Cheer up friends and neighbours (French Carol), Ye boundless realms of joy (Handel), The Chaplain; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, O come ye servants to the Lord (Tye), If we believe that Jesus died (Cross), Rev C French.

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If riches are a possession to be desired in life, what is richer than wisdom, the active cause of all things?
Wisdom of Solomon 8 : 5 (REB).

BIRTHS

ANAGNOU - On April 17th, at The Portland Hospital, to Maria (née Kotsonis) and Theodore, a wonderful son, Stavros, weight 3.205Kgs

BEDFORD - On April 22nd, to Susanna (née Lawson) and Mark, a daughter (I), Matilda Isobel, a sister for David.

BOND - On April 12th, at The Portland Hospital, to Ina (née Lowther) and David, a daughter Sapphire, a sister for James D'Arcy and Julius.

BROGAN-HIGGINS - On 25th April, at The Portland Hospital, to William and Joanna (née Laughton) a daughter, Sophia, a sister for Lucy born 17.19. 9lbs 8oz.

BROWN - On April 22nd, at Treliske Hospital, Truro, to Sarah Jane (née Moore) and Ian, a second son, Robin Andrew Campbell, a brother for Jessica and Frederick.

COLLINS - On April 11th 1995, to Deborah (née Hathaway) and Tim, a daughter, Georgia May.

CONSTANT - On 27th April, to Lucia (née Meynell) and Robbie, a daughter, Amy Virginia Kate.

HAMPSHIRE - On April 11th, to Angela (née Moriarty) and John, lovely twins, Fiona Louise and James, a sister and a brother for Alexander.

MASTERS - On April 25th, at The John Radcliffe Hospital, to Sabine (née Eisenhart) and Julian, a daughter Mercedes Constance Marie, a sister for Alexander.

McLAUGHLIN - On 23rd April, at University College Hospital, to Paul and Amanda (Stuart), a son Andrew Edward Graham, a companion for Oliver and Alexander.

MONICO - On April 27th, in Los Angeles, to Christian and Alison, a son.

OLSEN - On April 26th, at The Portland Hospital, to Lorrie (née Strauss) and Robert, a beautiful son Douglas Mathias, a brother for Amanda Marie.

PAWLIKOWSKI BLACKETT - On April 2nd 1995, to Teresa and David, a son, Matthew Tobias, a brother for Luke.

PELHAM - On April 19th, to Sally (née Hick) and Hugh, a daughter, Josephine Kate.

SHORT - On April 20th, to Sarah and Stuart, a daughter Hannah Victoria, a sister for Thomas.

SPALDING - On April 27th, at Countess of Chester Hospital, to Nicola (née Morrison) and Richard, a son James Alexander.

TRIVEDI - On April 19th 1995, to Kate (née Naylor) and Uday, a daughter, Poppy Eleanor Mary.

WAUCHOPE - On Wednesday 26th April 1995, to Jessica (née Hudson) and Francis, a son Peter Robert, a brother for Alasdair.

WHALEN - On April 24th, at The Portland Hospital, to Mary and Patrick, a beautiful daughter, a sister for James.

DEATHS

BROADIE-GRIFFITH - Raymond, on 26th April, suddenly and peacefully, at The Mount, Tunbridge Wells. Loving husband of his late wife Stella and much loved father of Roger and Charles and grandfather of six grandchildren. Funeral at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Friday 12th May at 12 Noon. No flowers please, but donations if desired to The Friends of Cathedral Music, Addington Palace, Croydon. CR9 5AD.

BANISTER - Constance Cecilia (Bay) née Bisset, in her 99th year on 26th April 1995 at Glencoe Hospital, peacefully after a long decline. Loving and dearly loved widow of the late Captain G.C. Banister, C.B.E., R.N.(Retd) and dearly loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at Ardgour Parish Church on Thursday 4th May at 2.30 p.m. Family flowers only, but donations in her memory may be sent to Oxfam or the Red Cross International Fund c/o J. McLellan & Co. Undertakers, Parade Road, Fort William. PH33 6BA.

BROCKLEBANK - Jane, on 27th April aged 90. Wife of the late Tom, formerly of Eton, beloved mother of Caroline, Louise, Daniel and Tess, grandmother and great grandmother. Service to commemorate her life at St. Mary's Church, Woolavington, Somerset on Thursday 4th May at 12.30pm.

BURNET - Timothy Henry, aged 54, died suddenly and unexpectedly at home on 24th April 1995. Beloved father of Cressida, loving elder son of Winifred and the late Henry Burnet, treasured gift of his wife to be, Jamie Ann Mauro, dearest brother of Lisa and Peter, brother-in-law to Ted Coles and uncle to Lucy and Tom. Private burial. Family flowers only. Donations to The British Heart Foundation c/o Sills, Cranbrook. (01580 712 284).

EASTON - Isabella Andrew. Beloved sister of Richard and the late George. Died peacefully in hospital on Friday 21st April 1995, aged 81 years. Service and cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium. Today 29th April 1995.

FRANKLIN - On Thursday 27th April 1995, peacefully at home in Petersfield, Harry Franklin O.B.E. Private funeral.

GABB - Hugh. On 26th April 1995, peacefully at home, surrounded by his close family. The darling husband of Deanna and much loved and loving father and stepfather. The elder son of Lucie and the late Dr. Hoadley Gabb. Enquiries to Towners, Funeral Directors. Tel: (01424 436586).

GRANT - On 27th April, 1995, peacefully at the Border's General Hospital, Melrose, in her eighty-sixth year. Elizabeth Meliora (née Sprot), widow of Captain J.W. Grant, D.S.O., Royal Navy, beloved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at Lilliesleaf Parish Church on Tuesday, 2nd May, at 1 45 p.m. Family flowers only. If desired, donations to Lilliesleaf Parish Church, c/o The Manse, Ancrum, Jedburgh, or St. John's Episcopal Church, c/o The Rectory, Selkirk, or St. Mary's The Virgin Church, Cowley, c/o The Rectory, Coberley, Near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

GUSSMAN - On April 26th 1995, peacefully at home. Elizabeth Barringham (née Nevill), aged 43, beloved wife of Robert, mother of Eleanor, Kitty and Tom. Funeral Eucharist at St. Lawrence, Alton, at 12 noon, on Friday 5th May. Family flowers only: donations, if desired, to Cancer Research, c/o Charles Read & Daughter, 13 Turk Street, Alton. Hants GU34 1AG.

HOWARD - On 28th April, peacefully in his sleep, Father Richard Leonard Howard aged 92. Funeral Service Thursday 4th May 11.30 at The College to be followed by private cremation. Donations instead of flowers or wreaths may be sent to the Secretary, College of St. Barnabas, Blackberry Lane, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6NJ.

KIRK - Harry Kirk, BA., LLB., aged 85 years. On April 28th 1995, peacefully in his sleep at his home in Wareham, Dorset. Late of the Law Society. Husband of Pat and father of Virginia, Tim, Andrew and David. Dear grandfather and great-grandfather. Private funeral service at Poole Crematorium Friday May 5th at 4 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired for The Sir Joseph Weld Hospice may be sent to Albert Marsh (Funeral Directors) Ltd, St Michaels Road, Wareham. BH20 4QU. Tel: (01929 552107).

LONGWORTH - Archibald Leslie, peacefully on Saturday 22nd April 1995 at Brookview Nursing Home Alderley Edge, Cheshire. Husband of Winifred, father of Andrew, Helen, and Ian and grandfather of Benjamin and Robin. Service at St Mary's Church, Nether Alderley, on Tuesday 2nd May at 2 pm. (Enquiries to Albert R. Slack Ltd., Wilmslow 01625 525063).

McDOWELL - Norah, much loved wife of Henry, mother of John and Susan, grandmother of Thomas and Richard, peacefully on 23rd April, in the loving and devoted care of the Oaks Nursing Centre, Sidcup. The cremation has taken place. No letters please.

NEPEAN-GUBBINS - Laura Caroline, on April 28th 1995, peacefully after a long illness bravely borne. Beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Golders Green Crematorium Thursday 4th May 1995, at 10.45am. Family flowers only. Donations to Scottish Terrier Rescue Fund c/o Noonsun Kennels, Woodside Farm, Everest Road, Malley Hyde, Cheshire.

PAUL - On 27th April, peacefully at Foxleigh Nursing Home, aged 88, Dr. Margaret L., widow of Dr. Robert A. P. Paul, and dearly loved mother of Elizabeth, Roderick and Andrew. Funeral service 1.30pm at St John the Baptist, Hillingdon, followed by committal at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip at 2.30pm. Flowers to A.V. Smith & Son, Royal Lane, Hillingdon.

REID - On Wednesday April 26th 1995, peacefully Joy, caring wife of the late David and devoted mother of Jane and Sarah. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary Magdalene Church, Tallarn Green, Malpas at 3 pm on Thursday 4th May. No flowers, donations to Whitewell and Tallarn Green Churches, c/o E. Biggins Funeral Directors, 4 Bredwood Arcade, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1AG.

THOMPSON - Marion Wilson, much loved widow of Norris, mother of Paul and Robert and grandmother of Stephen, Farah and Esther, after a brief illness on 27th April aged 86 years. Funeral 3 p.m Salisbury Crematorium on Thursday May 4th. Friends and family afterwards to home.

SOWERBY - On Maundy Thursday Walter Francis (Jack) aged 80 years at Queen Mary's University Hospital Roehampton London SW15 late of The Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond. Requiem Mass at St Mary's Church Cadogan Street Chelsea London SW3 at 12.15 pm on Monday 1st May 1995. Family flowers only. Donations to either The Catholic Association or the Order of Malta Volunteers both care of A. France & Son, 45 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1N 3NG.

TOPHAM - Peacefully at Chirk Hospital, on April 25th, Robert, beloved husband of Jean, loving father of Robin, Diana and Angela and a devoted grandfather. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service in Ellesmere at 2 pm on June 17th. Donations appreciated for Cancer Relief or The British Heart Foundation.

WRIGHT - Peter Maurice Wright, C.B.E., M.A., - the ingenious Mr. Toad - loyal subject of H.M. the Queen. Died peacefully on 27th April in Tasmania, aged 78. Much loved and loving husband of Lois, and father of Tessa, Jenny and Bevis.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

MacWILLIAM - June (née King). A Memorial Service will be held at St Lawrence Jewry, Guildhall, London EC2, on 6th June at 11.30am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EALING GAP Afternoon 25 April, Red Car, white trousers/blue top. Please contact walker. Tel 01483 416781

BIRTHDAYS

WENDY Burrell - Wishing you a fabulous 50th! with lots and lots of love from Mike, Jules and Steven. xxx.

COLLECTORS ITEM

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OLD SCHOOL TIE

SOUTHAMPTON Convent High School Reunion. May 21st 1995. Details Tel 01489 [illegible]

OBITUARIES

LORD MORTON OF SHUNA

Lord Morton of Shuna, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, died from cancer on April 26 aged 65. He was born on April 10, 1930.

LORD Morton of Shuna was a judge in the finest tradition of the Scottish law. Modest, pragmatic, direct and, in an age of long-winded judgments, sparse and to the point, he brought to the Bench a strong sense of the place that the law should occupy in society. As Labour's Scottish legal affairs spokesman in the Lords, he was an effective contributor to debates on such complex legislation as the Financial Services Act and the Copyright Bill, endearing himself to both sides of the House through his admirable economy of speech. It was typical of him that his maiden speech in the Lords, in 1985, should have lasted just four minutes.

His legal career was remarkable in that he trained and practised as a solicitor in Glasgow, before changing course in mid-stream to move to the Bar in Edinburgh. He was 35 when he was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates; it was unusual in those days for someone to be admitted to the faculty so late, and almost unheard of to transfer from a solicitor's practice to become an advocate. But Hugh Morton took it all in his stride. He made the change because he felt that he could make a more effective contribution to the shaping of the law as an advocate, a QC and later a judge.

A committed Labour supporter, he thought long and hard about moving to the Bench since he would almost certainly have been appointed Lord Advocate in a future Labour government. But he made full use of his six and a half years as a judge to bring a pragmatic, commonsense approach to the law. He was unafraid of controversy, equally prepared to criticise police methods as he was to complain about delays in the legal system. He was courageous and uncomplaining in the face of the cancer which led to his death, using his remaining time to make an important speech in the House of Lords in which he outlined the inadequacies of the Court of Session. As recently as last month, he was one of five judges who overturned a decision by the Lord President himself in what has become a landmark case in Scotland.

Hugh Drennan Baird Morton was a son of the manse, born in China, where his father was a missionary. He remained a deeply religious man. Much of his early life was spent in Glasgow, to which his father had returned from the mission field as a Church of Scotland minister. He went to Glasgow Academy and Glasgow University before embarking on practice in the city as a solicitor. Later, as a partner in the firm of Biggart Lumsden & Co, he developed an extensive practice, especially in reparation cases. There were then strong sectarian divisions in Glasgow which at that time did not generally allow a Protestant solicitor to handle Catholic business, but Hugh Morton never allowed that to interfere with his basic approach as a fair-minded lawyer and a Christian.

After switching careers to become an advocate in 1965, he served for nine years at the junior Bar before taking silk. Three years later, in 1977, he succeeded Lord Cowie as Home Advocate Depute. He became a life peer in 1985, taking the title of Morton of Shuna, a place on the island of Iona for which he had the strongest feelings — his father had served under the legendary George Macleod who founded the Iona settlement. Three years later he was installed as a Senator of the College of Justice. His approach to the administration of justice was as direct as his politics. He had strong views about avoiding delay, keeping things simple and getting to the essential point of the case.

As a QC, he was once congratulated by a judge for disposing of a civil jury case before lunch, and he had a way of cutting through the morass of legal detail which helped to speed cumbersome cases through the courts. As a judge he often showed frustration that others were not so adept, and occasionally he stepped on the toes of members of his own profession. Only last year he was subjected to a stinging attack by the Dean of the Faculty of Advocates for "unfairly pillorying" members of the legal profession because of their delays. A simple damages case had dragged on for seven days and Morton believed it could have been done in half the time.

An early and notorious case in which he was involved found him crossing swords with the late Sir Nicholas Fairbairn. Morton had successfully defended a man accused of strangling and stabbing a 13-year-old Glasgow schoolgirl. The case was thrown out when it was revealed that the man, who had mental problems, had not been properly informed of his rights by police. Fairbairn, then Solicitor-General, implied that the man was guilty and found himself on the receiving end of an angry letter from Morton.

His political career in the Lords was equally marked by firm opinions and for brief, concise interventions. On several occasions he would get to his feet, speak for just 30 seconds, then sit down. He insisted on mastering the detail of complex Bills but did not inflict them on the Upper House. When he spoke, members on both sides listened carefully because they knew that any point from Lord Morton was likely to be significant. But he was also capable of a nice line in dry humour. In the course of one amendment on the Copyright Bill, he spotted that a new clause labelled "GG" was being proposed. There already was a "GG". He suggested that it should be changed to "GGG", his mock-seriousness causing the House to collapse in laughter. His colleagues at this time remember, however, his deep convictions. He would never speak to an amendment unless he was totally convinced by it. He was out of sympathy with the reforms introduced under Margaret Thatcher and once, in the course of a late-night discussion, observed sharply that "the Thatcher years will go down as a disgrace".

In private he was a delightful companion, with a wide range of interests, especially music, art and hill-walking. He had a fine collection of Scottish Colourist paintings and he was never happier than when visiting exhibitions. Out-of-doors he was an enthusiastic climber, and used regularly to undertake long expeditions, such as walking the Jura range in France.

In 1948 he married Muriel Miller. She survives him, together with their three sons.

JOHN RIDLEY

John Ridley, designer of the mobile Century Theatre, died in Pitlochry, Perthshire, on April 8 aged 88. He was born in Drinkstone, Suffolk, on August 24, 1906.

IN BOTH the arts and the sciences John Ridley applied his knowledge and skills in a variety of ways and over a large number of years. As a hydraulic engineer — he was a leader in the wartime National Fire Service in the Midlands — his expertise even in that phase of his career shaped many community hall stages into settings more appropriate for plays than their normally bleak facilities could ever have promised.

That experience led him in 1945 to design in detail the building that would in due course become the Century Theatre, subsequently described by *The Times* as "a comfortable fully equipped mobile playhouse [that] must be seen to be believed".

The theatre was created by a group of unconventional artists and technicians, led by Ridley, all convinced of the project's merit and feasibility. This was more than could be said of the officers of the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts (the forerunner of the Arts Council) who dismissed an application for grant-aid with the sniffy reply that the scheme was "artistically impossible, mechanically impossible and financially impossible".

Large trust funds were few in the immediate postwar period and patterns of sponsorship had yet to be established. Municipal authorities were sluggish, too, in using their new power to spend up to a sixpenny rate on the arts. Even so, in that period of recovery from wartime stringencies, the "audacious venture" as the *Manchester Guardian* called it, of the Century Theatre attracted the applause of people with the imagination to see its potential. The 225 seats were all endowed by handsome donations, many from stars of stage and screen, others from people equally committed but less famous.

John Ridley and two skilled craftsmen comprised the initial workforce, assisted from time to time over a four-year period by out-of-work actors and students. In 1952 the caravan procession took to the road. It consisted of four ex-RAF tractors, towing, in shifts, 18 trailers which contained the auditorium and stage dressing rooms, the six living quarters, each to house two persons, the dining car and kitchen, the bathrooms, the office, the scenery store and the public lavatories. "Where are the animals?" village children would cry as the vehicles arrived.

Towns and villages from the Lake District to the Home Counties were visited by the mobile theatre which was remarkable for its standards of acting and the choice of plays. For the 1962 summer season in Keswick, with John Ridley as director, the authors represented were Ben Jonson, Arthur Miller, Ibsen, Sardou, Molière and J. M. Synge.

In 1975 new licensing regulations ("shifting the goalposts" was John Ridley's comment) made touring no longer economic, and the theatre settled in Keswick, Cumbria, for a long succession of summer seasons. John Ridley widened his theatre experience as director of Malvern's Festival Theatre, then of Cheltenham's Everyman, and in management of his West of Scotland Theatre Company.

In the late 1970s, then 70 years of age, he left the theatrical profession, reverting to his engineering skills which he now employed in the restoration of watermills in his beloved Scotland. He became archaeological consultant to the National Trust for Scotland, and was responsible for meticulously executed restorations in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Aberfeldy, Dalggarvan, Blair Atholl and other places. His last assignment was at a watermill in Killin, Perthshire, when he was in his 88th year.

In a cluster of towns, the Century Theatre's visit gave a stimulus to the creation of their own theatres. Keswick, first visited by Century with Ridley as director in 1961, is soon to join the list, a permanent theatre being scheduled to replace the Century Theatre in the foreseeable future. The once-mobile playhouse will then move to an education-orientated "discovery park" in Leicestershire, and will house appropriate arts and science events. Ridley had contributed enthusiastically to these plans.

John Ridley was a man of great energy and stamina, and capable of overcoming obstacles by ingenuity and wit as well as by dogged persistence. Never nostalgic in looking back, he faced the future with quiet resolve. During his last brief illness he was planning new adventures for himself after a forthcoming hip operation.

He leaves two sons.

DR B. G. PARSONS-SMITH

Dr B. G. Parsons-Smith, OBE, physician, died on April 21 aged 83. He was born on November 19, 1911.

GERALD PARSONS-SMITH was a prominent consultant physician who completed his career as chief physician and senior consultant neurologist at the New Charing Cross Hospital in London. A feature of his later years was his attempt to improve the treatment of people who suffered strokes. He campaigned to have strokes treated as urgently as coronary attacks, arguing that immediate treatment would save lives and reduce residual disability in those who survived.

While working as a neurologist to an eye hospital in 1952 he instigated immediate steroid therapy for patients with giant cell arteritis, a disease affecting arteries leading to the eye and brain which, if untreated, causes blindness in a similar way to a stroke. His work showed that blindness was preventable and his paper on the subject, published in the *General Practitioner* resulted in his treatment being used widely thereafter to combat swelling of the brain from accidents and various forms of stroke.

Basil Gerald Parsons-Smith's father was a well-known physician with an interest in cardiology and his maternal grandfather, Sir David Burnett, had been Lord Mayor of London in 1913. His education began at Bowden House, Seaford, and continued at Harrow. As with many of that era, he decided to follow his father's profession and went to Cambridge and then on to St George's Hospital, London, where he qualified in 1936.

After working successively as house surgeon (1936), house physician (1937) and medical registrar (1938), he served in the RAF as a medical officer for the duration of the Second World War, commanding the RAF hospital in Alexandria during the battle of El Alamein. He later served in Libya and Palestine. Mentioned in dispatches twice, he was appointed OBE (military) in 1945 and left the service with the rank of squadron leader.

He returned after the war to St George's Hospital where he was asked by Dr Denis Williams to be senior registrar to the department of neurology. His MD thesis in 1949 was entitled "Electroencephalographic Studies" and he was appointed as assistant neurologist to the West London Hospital, which had one of the earliest electroencephalography units.

This was followed by private practice in Harley Street and consultant appointments to the Graylingwell Hospital in Chichester, the West End Hospital for Neurology, Western Ophthalmic Hospital (St Mary's), the Florence Nightingale Hospital, the electroencephalograph department at Middlesex Hospital and the Atkinson Moreley Hospital.

But in the final years of his career he abandoned his freelance status to work full-time for the National Health Service at Charing Cross Hospital as senior neurologist and to teach medicine at London University. At the old Charing Cross Hospital premises opposite Charing Cross station there was no separate department of neurology, an omission corrected when the new hospital, in Fulham Palace Road, was opened in 1972.

Parsons-Smith played an active part in its planning. He thus helped to lay the foundation of what is now the largest department of neurology in the UK with 160 collaborating neuroscientists.

In 1976 he was co-organiser of the Gordon Holmes Centenary (Holmes having been a predecessor at Charing Cross), and published a biographical chapter on the great neurologist in its *Proceedings*.

Before retiring, to the amazement of his friends and family, he took a leading acting role in a full-length BBC television drama, *Hospital 1922*, playing the part of a prominent consultant of the period.

In retirement he continued to make weekly trips to London to sit on the Medical Appeals and Vaccine Damage tribunals. There used to be a tradition that those elected to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians would receive from their chief proposer a silver plate on which the occasion was recorded in Latin. Parsons-Smith continued this tradition and may well have been one of the last to do so. He was a traditionalist with great charm, and a gentleman-physician of the old school.

He was devoted to his home in Bletchingley where he enjoyed his garden and his wife's pony stud. Until his death he was still walking his dogs, mowing his lawns and driving his tractor. His prescription for health and longevity was enough exercise each day "to bring on a sweat".

He is survived by his wife Aurea, one daughter and two sons.

LADY PATRICIA TETLEY

Lady Patricia Tetley, cousin to the Queen, died from a heart attack on April 1 aged 63. She was born on January 30, 1932.

LADY Patricia Tetley was the sister of the 17th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, and, as a Bowes Lyon, she was also first cousin to the Queen. She was one of those successors to the "bright young things" of the 1920s and 1930s, at the centre of a group of young people who brought some necessary glamour to postwar London. At the same time, she held down a number of what appeared to contemporary commentators to be surprisingly ordinary jobs.

She was born Patricia Maud Bowes Lyon, but was always known as Tisha. Her grandfather was the 14th Earl of Strathmore and his daughter, Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, was then the Duchess of York. Patricia's brother Fergus succeeded his cousin in the earldom and the family seat of Glamis Castle in 1972, and it was there that Patricia spent her school holidays during and after the war. Despite its reputation for being haunted — "heavy with atmosphere" as one guest described it in 1922 — it was where her father, Captain Michael Bowes Lyon, was happiest.

She was educated during the war at St Andrew's School in Bedford and was then sent to Mrs Fyfe's school at Hatherop Castle, an establishment more noted for its careful instruction on social graces than for its academic rigour. She came out in 1949, and, with her twin sister Mary, was given a ball in her honour at Londonderry House. It was the most prized of that season's invitations, attended by the King and Queen and by other senior members of the Royal Family.

Patricia enjoyed a strenuous social diary. Her friends attended all the seasonal sporting events, weekend house parties in the country and private balls in Syon House and Arundel Castle. Her London address was St James's Place. She was known for her beauty and wit, but above all for her kindness, for she was totally without guile.

At the same time, in her twenties, she embarked on a career which saw her working on a women's magazine, language teaching at Stockholm University, serving at Peter Jones in Sloane Square and nursing in a kindergarten. She enjoyed the pace and liked to change jobs every year, not being, as she explained modestly, trained to do anything in particular. This was at a time when most of her contemporaries polished off their education with a finishing school, a cordon bleu cooking course or a spell with Constance Spry. Because of her — by modern standards unfocused — career she gained a reputation in the popular press for being an independent young woman.

Then suddenly, in mid-life, she became inexplicably reclusive. She never criticised her old friends but it was clear that her values had changed. She settled in Norfolk and remained there for the last twenty years of her life, living extremely quietly within sight of Wymondham Abbey.

In 1974, two years after her brother's succession to the earldom, Patricia was raised to the rank of an earl's daughter.

She married, in 1964, Oliver Tetley, formerly a farmer in Swaziland. They divorced in 1970 and she is survived by her son, Alexander, a major in the Scots Guards. She was buried at Glamis Castle.

ON THIS DAY

April 29 1942

This assurance of solidarity with Britain, which was given by the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Curtin, in spite of Japan's threat to his country, was clearly illustrated six months later when some of Australia's finest troops played a vital role at the battle of El Alamein.

AUSTRALIA FACING INVASION

Mr. Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia, in a broadcast to Britain last night "from the land that is preparing to meet an invasion," reiterated Australia's determination to fight by the side of the motherland until victory is won. Speaking from Canberra, Mr. Curtin said:—"While we watch the enemy approaching ever closer to our shores we remember how the people of Britain used the greatest weapon of all to hold off the invader——the weapon of an indomitable spirit. Like Britain after Dunkirk, we find that we have not enough arms, not enough aeroplanes. You did not have enough aeroplanes nor enough arms, but you did have the will to resist. It was the spirit of the people that freed Britain, and it will be the spirit of the Australian people that will not only save Australia but send us marching forward to victory.

"Dangerous days lie ahead of us, but under this threat the Empire is more united than ever before. The people of Australia have no illusions about this struggle. They know that this is not a fight for Australia, nor for the Empire, nor for any other section of the world, but a fight for the world itself. We are practical Empire patriots——practical democrats; the Australians were the first Empire people to send their men away from their shores to fight for the Empire. They have always fought for the Empire, they have always fought for what is right, and always fought against what is wrong, because that is their nature. With their blood Australians have written many glorious pages of Empire history.

"We have a Commander-in-Chief, a great soldier, General Douglas MacArthur, and in Australia to-day the fighting men of Australia and America march as one army under one leader. Faced with the threat of an invasion our armies are preparing to take the offensive. That is the Anzac spirit; that is the spirit that is inspiring the Empire and the United Nations to-day. It is a spirit that knows not defeat; it is for life itself we strive.

"This purpose abides with us. It keeps the Axis Powers in the west separated from their eastern partner. It is the blow that will prove the turning point in the total conflict. Australia is proud of its son-ship to the Motherland. In its loyalty is accepts the mantle that has come to it. It will inexorably, and with all that it has, stand side by side with you in upholding what we are, and working and fighting to the end, for victory."

FIVE EGGS A HEAD FOR APRIL

It has now been decided that the egg ration for April is to be increased to five for each person, though in some areas the fifth egg may not be obtainable until early in May. The bulk of the eggs will be home produced. Last week approximately 48,000,000 home-produced eggs passed through the stations of the Ministry, an increase of 15 per cent, and 71,300,000 were distributed.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 002103 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF CHLORIDE ELECTRONICS LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a petition was on 3 April 1995 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £18,562,000 to £1,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said petition is directed to be heard before Mr. Registrar Simmonds at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 10 May 1995.

Any creditor or shareholder of the said company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED the 29th April 1995
Freshfields
65 Fleet Street
London EC4Y 1HS
Tel: 0171 936 4000
Ref: [illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

Adams William. Died 7th November 1994. Born 1912 in West Bromwich but latterly of Padgate, Warrington. Will any descendants of the above having an interest in the estate thereof please contact Robert Davies & Co Solicitors (Ref [illegible]) PO Box 1 21 Bold Street Warrington WA1 1DF.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

HOLLAND, MARJORIE BETTY, 135 INDERWICK ROAD HORNSEY LONDON N8. DIED 22ND SEPTEMBER 1994. PARTICULARS TO APER SMITH & BASHAM, SOLICITORS (Ref [illegible]) 31 WARWICK SQUARE LONDON SW1V 2AP BEFORE 1ST JULY 1995

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When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment. Most sports tickets are subject to strict re-sale and transfer rules.

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW Tickets. Face Value £20.00 each Tel 01323 504121

MONACO Grand Prix, 6 tickets. 28/5/95, Row M, Seats 15/20, Range F. Contact D Moore/C Roch 0171 480 7288

PAVAROTTI Royal Albert Hall. Arena seats, 1 May. Best offers. 0181 546 4496

PAVAROTTI, 1 Ticket Albert Hall stalls, Row 18, 8th May 1995. Tel 0171 435 3661

WANTED

CHILDLESS Couple are desperately seeking an egg donor. Our only chance of having a baby is through the generosity of a fertile mother. If you are under 35 yrs old and would be prepared to help please phone Maree-Jane on 0171 226 0707 Quoting Ref 06681 Thankyou

REVENGE. Author needs funny stories about getting your own back, please. Mr.T. PO Box 3094, London, SW6 2HD.

WE BUY quality watches, also items by Rolex, Cartier, Tag Heuer, Gucci, Dunhill, Breitling etc. Richard, 66 Gloucester Rd., SW7 0171-584-7349

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUR WILL
If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.
Enquiries to
The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

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London Association for the Blind has changed its name. Now we're working even harder to provide better services to blind or partially sighted people, at our care homes, through employment or cash help for those in need.
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action for blind people
RefTT, 14-16 Verney Road, London SE16 3DZ. Telephone: 071-732 8771
London Association for the Blind Registered Charity No.[illegible]

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Broadway House, The Broadway,
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THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY APRIL 29 1995

NEWS

Tory health reformer took heroin

■ A GP widely seen as an architect of the Government's health reforms admitted that he became addicted to heroin while depressed about a hate campaign waged by fellow doctors opposed to the changes.

Clive Froggatt, who was consulted by Margaret Thatcher and advised five successive Secretaries of State, admitted eight counts of dishonestly obtaining heroin.................. **Pages 1, 3**

Call for mortgage sale controls

■ The Government was urged to introduce new laws on mortgage sales, after the Office of Fair Trading said advisers were selling the most lucrative commission-driven loans rather than offering the best advice.......................... ***Pages 1, 4, 16, 25, 27***

MP wins lottery

Winston Churchill has won £40 on the lottery, to add to his slice of the £12.5 million for his grandfather's papers............ **Pages 1, 7, 16, 17**

Victory for Blair

Tony Blair will hail a turning-point in Labour's history as he cruises to victory in his fight to rewrite its constitution .... **Page 2**

Vet denies murder

A vet murdered his wife with a cocktail of animal drugs mixed with orange juice so that he could set up home with his mistress, a jury was told................. **Page 3**

Sheep lorry blocked

A haulage company is expected to challenge in court a police decision to turn back a lorry carrying sheep for live export.................. **Page 5**

Crash landing

Cracks in high-strength metal were being blamed for the crash landing of a packed aircraft at Manchester airport.......... ***Page 8***

Our men on front line

War, and the way it is reported, changed beyond recognition between the Charge of the Light Brigade and D-Day .... **Page 9**

Married priests soon?

The Roman Catholic Church in England could soon have married priests with children ...... **Page 10**

Oklahoma hunt stalled

The hunt for a second suspect in the Oklahoma bombing stalled as federal fears increased that he may strike again .... **Page 12**

Deng clique reeling

By disgracing Chen Xitong, a Politburo member and the Party chief of Peking, President Jiang Zemin of China has stabbed deeply into the once all-powerful faction of Deng Xiaoping .... **Page 13**

Korean gas blast

About 100 South Koreans, many of them children, were killed in a rush-hour gas blast........ ***Page 15***

Nasa hits a winning formula

■ Nasa scientists have worked out how cricketers and baseball players manage to catch a ball that has risen upward, hung there for a moment and then plummeted back to earth: they are thinking in two dimensions, rather than three .... **Page 12**

ANATOLY MALTSEV/AP

A Russian Army major tires of long rehearsals for the Victory Day parade in Moscow next month. Residents have also been irritated by practice for the parade to mark Allied victory, which has caused long traffic jams. Page 9

OPINION

The Godfather jetset: Crime is on the move: the UN is right to keep prodding governments to keep pace... **Page 17**

A plan for the tests: The tests upon which a child's future may depend can be as nerve-racking for their parents, if not more so .... **Page 17**

Howzat for heritage: The sorry paradox is that the man doing most to encourage team games for the young is Eric Cantona.......... **Page 17**

PAPERS

Carlos Menem's presidency has been rich in economic achievements. But only when civilians and the military understand the causes and consequences of the dirty war will Argentine democracy be secure—*The New York Times*

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: It is time the Prime Minister rose to the Challenge of the Empty Plinth — the spot in the north-west corner of Trafalgar Square where there should be a statue.................. **Page 16**

Philip Howard: By mixing different sorts of people, who would never meet in normal *times, war is a rich compost* for slang .... **Page 16**

OBITUARIES

Lord Morton of Shuna, a Senator of College of Justice; **John Ridley**, designer of the mobile Century Theatre; **Lady Patricia Tetley Page 19**

LETTERS

Sale of the Churchill letters; role of Press Complaints Commission.............. **Page 17**

BUSINESS

Lloyd's: About 1,000 names who backed two underwriting syndicates could face losses of up to £260 million on policies that pay other names' losses...................... **Page 21**

Castles: Germany's banks have become nervous about the free-spending habits of the so-called King of Castles, *who has been snapping up* the country's heritage despite huge debts.............. **Page 21**

Share surge: Thorn EMI leapt ahead on hopes that its music business will be sold to Walt Disney .... **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 0.9 points to close at 3216.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.7 to 84.6 after a fall from $1.6180 to $1.6097 but a rise from DM2.2207 to DM2.2241...... **Page Page 24**

[illegible]

Football: Eric Cantona said that he hoped to spend the rest of his career in England.................. **Page 40**

Motor racing: Max Mosley, president of the international motor sport federation, criticised Michael Schumacher for "childish" behaviour **Page 40**

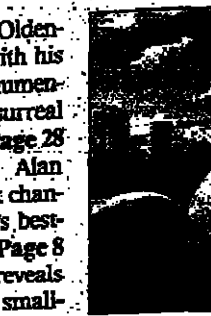
Rugby league: *For 80 minutes agents and players can forget about the Super League while Wigan meet Leeds.................* **Page 40**

Rugby union: Brian Moore will retire from the first-class game after the World Cup .... **Page 34**

[illegible]

Big, brash and over here: a celebration of America's glitzy giants of the road

MAGAZINE



Strange fruit: Claes Oldenburg's collaboration with his wife is producing monumental sculpture with a surreal twist.................. **Page 28**

One from the heart: Alan Jackson meets the rock chanteuse who is this year's best-selling artist .... **Page 8**

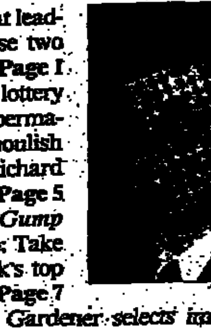
Cult TV: The Vulture reveals his choice of the top 25 small-screen classics......... **Page 19**

Fashion: Shimmering shift dresses .... **Page 38**

House style: Bevis Hillier visits a library created by an 18th-century eccentric .... **Page 42**

Food and drink: Jonathan Meades on a disappointing exhibition of taste; Frances Bissell on Mexico; Jane MacQuitty on herbal drinks.......... **Pages 45-48**

WEEKEND



Poor Winston: the great leader's grandson can raise two fingers in victory .... **Page 1**

Not up to scratch: The lottery was not meant to be a permanent sideshow of ghoulish excitement, writes Richard Morrison.................. **Page 5**

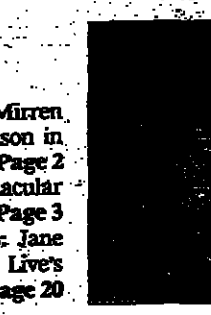
New releases: *Forrest Gump* is rushed out on video; Take That produce the week's top new album .... **Page 7**

Cover-up: The Times *Gardener selects impressive* perennials to fill out a bare-looking bed .... **Page 8**

Property: the human burglar alarm .... **Page 11**

Travel: the Galapagos islands; Costa Rica's rainforest; the Canary Islands; cycling trips.. **Pages 18-21**

vision



In her prime: Helen Mirren returns as Jane Tennison in *Prime Suspect*............ **Page 2**

Blur in focus: vernacular rockers in concert....... **Page 3**

Alternatives to Evans: Jane Garvey and Radio 5 Live's breakfast show .... **Page 20**

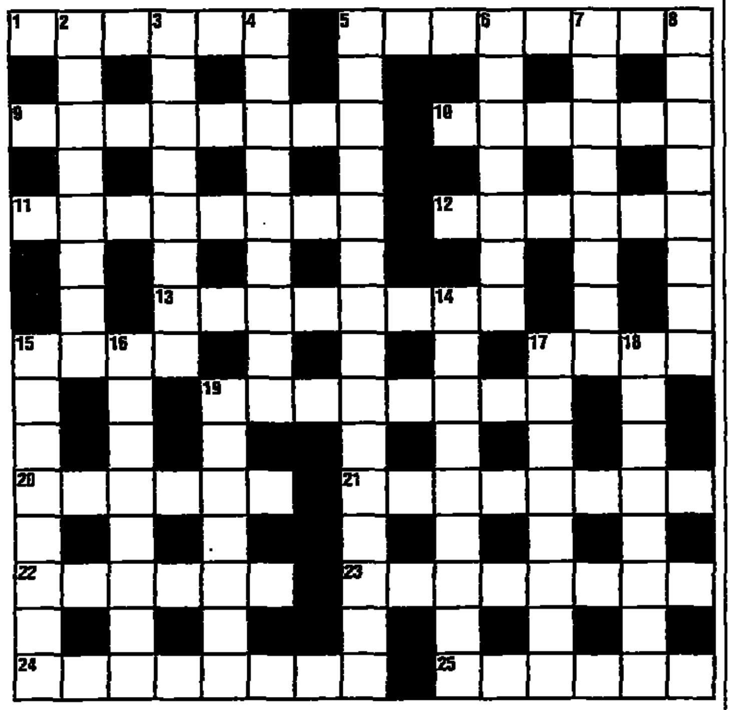
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,842

KNOCKANDO

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



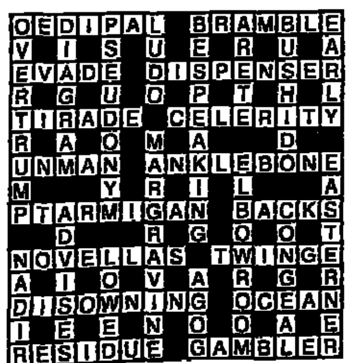
ACROSS

1 Grand loan for each one inside (6).
5 In which churchwardens stand out? (4-4).
9 Lunatic taking one drug after another (8).
10 Square seat (6).
11 More convenient hour to rest, right? (8).
12 Tweed boatman on the Thames...(6).
13 ...has to check on his mad manoeuvre (8).
15 Favourite language, next to Latin (4).
17 Destination of the Young Pretender's speedboat? (4).
19 Section of couplet Horace used in profusion (8).
20 Rodin's pensive sort of sitter (6).
21 Great seal needed for this size of paper? (8).
22 Roman emperor knocking back a drink in town (6).
23 Spectator who sees only one side of the game? (8).
24 New lease for a bit of a climber (4-4).
25 Tell revealing half of core at the last minute (6).

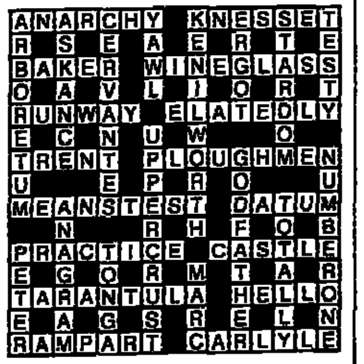
DOWN

2 University, commended, is put on a higher level (8).
3 Such abstention points to Conservative split over a Liberal (8).
4 Like an early bath? (9).
5 Noted fairy tale re pedant who felt ill-treated (5,3,3,4).
6 Vessel put into orbit (7).
7 Star sign of Daisy is last in book (8).
8 Reminder to control drink in Japan (8).
14 One who has a scooping action will get a duck (9).
15 Maxim's sincere flatterer? (8)
16 Numbers in order for ring-road in a London system, initially (8).
17 Band saw, perhaps, for making light work (4-4).
18 Most modern toy guns point all over the place (8).
19 Start playing with it and drop catch! (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,836



Solution to Puzzle No 19,841



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Miss J Tudball, Dagenham; Mrs B Y Wyatt, London, W5; Mr B Cooke, Knutsford, Cheshire; Miss M Brittenden, London, W2; P Donovan, London, W1.

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5 37 am	8 20 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
8 16 pm	5.30 am

New Moon Today

London 8 20 pm to 5 36 am
Bristol 8 29 pm to 5 45 am
Edinburgh 8 47 pm to 5 33 am
Manchester 8 34 pm to 5 33 am
Penzance 8 37 pm to 6 01 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5 36 am	8 21 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
9.17 pm	5.59 am

First quarter May 7

London 8 21 pm to 5 34 am
Bristol 8 31 pm to 5 43 am
Edinburgh 8 49 pm to 5 30 am
Manchester 8 36 pm to 5 35 am
Penzance 8 39 pm to 5 59 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.16	7.08	1.41	7.17
Aberdeen	0.57	3.95	1.01	4.05
Avonmouth	6.51	12.87	7.08	12.95
Belfast	10.49	3.38	11.05	3.42
Cardiff	6.41	12.27	7.01	12.18
Devonport	5.20	5.36	5.39	5.29
Dover	10.50	6.33	11.02	6.43
Dublin	11.26	3.97	11.45	3.93
Falmouth	4.45	5.10	5.07	5.09
Glasgow	0.01	4.69	0.27	4.66
Harwich	11.42	3.88	11.56	3.85
Holyhead	9.59	5.34	10.25	5.23
Hull	6.01	7.09	6.07	7.24
Ilfracombe	5.40	8.38	5.56	8.36
King's Lynn	5.57	6.56	6.13	6.64
Leith	2.20	5.25	2.32	5.33
Liverpool	10.56	9.09	11.16	8.94
Lowestoft	9.19	2.36	9.22	2.31
Margate	–	–	0.06	4.72
Milford Haven	5.53	6.74	6.10	6.71
Newquay	4.37	6.70	4.56	6.68
Oban	5.21	3.81	5.32	3.75
Penzance	4.17	5.21	4.37	5.20
Portland	5.23	2.03	5.46	2.06
Portsmouth	11.08	4.48	11.33	4.60
Shoreham	11.13	5.98	11.27	6.09
Southampton	10.32	4.31	10.47	4.47
Swansea	6.00	9.29	6.15	9.27
Tees	3.14	5.06	3.26	5.13
Walton-on-Naze	11.39	4.06	11.49	4.03

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands Devon, 16C (61F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath Highland, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, 0.05in; highest sunshine: Anglesey, Gwynedd 12.6hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** southwest England and Wales will start cloudy with rain, this weather spreading slowly east. The rain will turn showery and some central and eastern parts may stay dry. Central and western Scotland will be dry but cloudy at first. Outbreaks of rain will soon reach the west, however, and these will move slowly northeast. Eastern Scotland could stay dry. Northern Ireland after a cloudy, wet start should slowly brighten later.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N:** bright at first, showery rain later. wind mainly east to south-easterly light to moderate. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders:** mostly dry and bright, but increasing cloud later. Wind east or northeasterly light to moderate. Max 11C (52F).

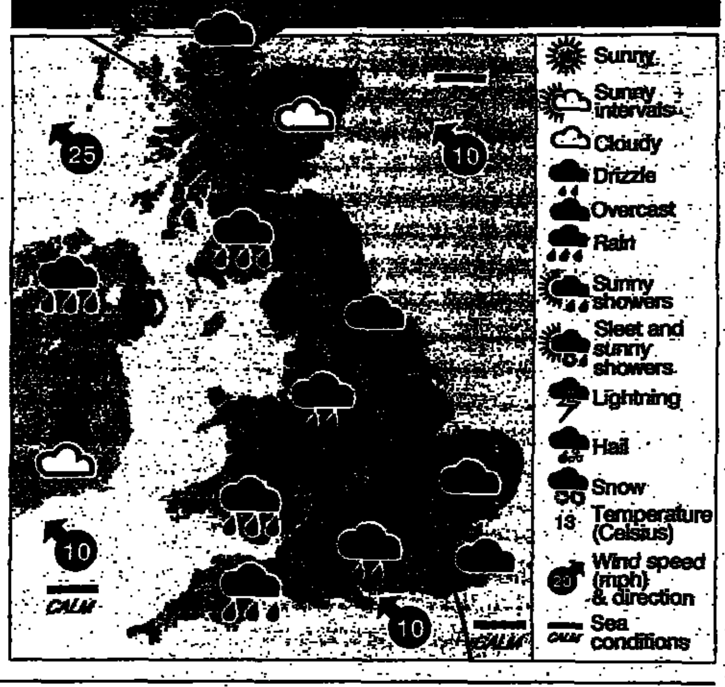
☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Ireland:** cloudy with rain at times, becoming drier later. Wind southeasterly moderate to fresh becoming mainly light northwesterly. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** mostly dry at first with increasing cloud giving rain later. Wind southeasterly moderate. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney:** mostly dry and bright but more cloudy later. Wind light south-easterly becoming moderate later. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Shetland:** light showers then dry with sunny spells. Wind light northerly becoming variable. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** mostly dry, warmer.



AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

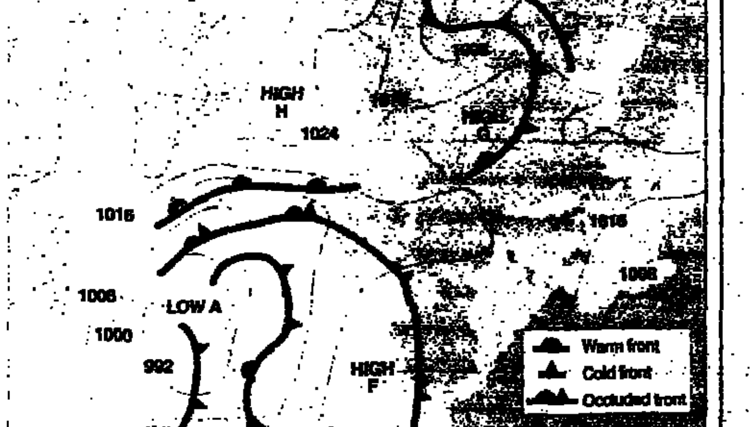
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X					Littlehmptn	10.7	-	14	57	s
Anglesey	12.6	-	11	52	s	Liverpool	10.4	-	11	52	s
Aspatria	7.4	-	10	50	b	London	5.3	-	11	52	b
Aviemore	X	-	7	45	c	Lowestoft	4.0	-	10	50	b
Belfast	11.4	-	10	50	s	Manchester	9.5	-	11	52	b
Birmingham	5.8	-	9	48	c	Margate	2.0	-	11	52	c
Bognor R	10.8	-	15	59	s	Morecambe	8.9	-	11	52	s
Bournem'th	10.1	-	13	55	s	Newcastle	1.7	-	8	46	c
Bristol	11.5	-	12	54	s	Newquay	5.6	-	12	54	b
Buxton	9.3	-	7	45	s	Norwich	X				
Cardiff	11.0	-	12	54	s	Oxford	6.7	-	11	52	b
Clacton	-	-	11	52	c	Penzance	3.8	-	11	52	b
Cleethorpes	3.0	-	9	48	b	Plymouth	10.0	-	13	55	s
Cromer	2.0	-	9	48	b	Poole	10.5	-	14	57	s
Doncaster	2.0	-	9	48	c	Prestatyn	X	-	11	52	s
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	12.1	-	13	55	s
Eastbourne	8.2	-	13	55	s	Ryde	10.7	-	13	55	s
Edinburgh	5.6	-	10	50	b	Salcombe	5.5	-	10	50	s
Eskdalemuir	5.7	-	9	48	s	Sandown	9.8	-	13	55	s
Exmouth	10.2	-	10	50	s	Saunton Snd	10.5	-	16	61	s
Falmouth	X	-	11	52	b	Scarboro'	3.5	-	8	46	c
Fishguard	10.5	-	11	52	s	Scilly Isles	0.2	-	11	52	c
Folkestone	5.2	-	11	52	b	Shanklin	10.7	-	12	54	s
Glasgow	5.6	-	11	52	s	Skegness	6.0	-	9	48	s
Guernsey	-	-	11	52	du	Southend	X	-	10	50	du
Hastings	8.2	-	13	55	b	Southport	9.8	-	11	52	s
Hayling I	10.0	-	13	55	s	Southsea	10.6	-	X	X	s
Hove	9.5	-	15	59	s	Stornoway	5.4	0.01	7	45	s
Hunstanton	3.0	-	9	48	c	Swanage	10.5	-	11	52	s
Ilfracombe	X					Teignmouth	9.4	-	11	52	s
Isle of Man	12.4	-	10	50	s	Tenby	7.8	-	11	52	s
Jersey	-	-	10	50	du	Tiree	7.8	-	9	48	s
Kinloss	9.7	0.01	8	46	b	Torquay	8.1	-	11	52	s
Leeds	2.5	-	9	48	c	Ventnor	10.2	-	14	57	s
Lerwick	0.7	0.02	7	45	sn	Weymouth	10.5	-	11	52	s
Leuchars	4.9	-	9	48	b						

These are Thursday's figures

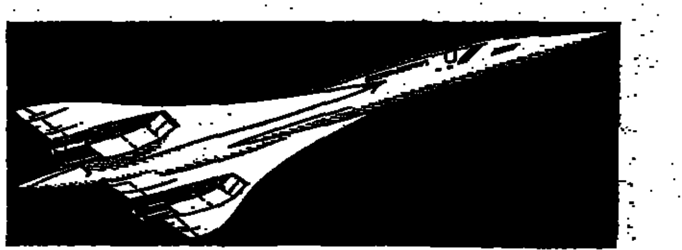
ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	f	C'phagn	5	41	c	Madrid	13	55	f	Rome	17	63	f
Akrotiri	25	77	s	Corfu	17	63	f	Majorca	19	66	f	Salzburg	16	61	f
Alex'dria	20	68	s	Dublin	10	50	c	Malaga	19	66	c	S F'cisco	16	61	c
Algiers	13	55	f	Dubrovnik	15	59	s	Malta	20	68	f	Santiago	23	73	f
Amst'dm	9	48	c	Faro	20	68	c	Melb'rne	17	63	s	S Paulo	25	77	c
Athens	22	72	s	Florence	17	63	f	Mexico C	22	72	s	Seoul	23	73	s
Bahrain	29	84	s	Frankfurt	11	52	c	Miami	28	82	f	Sing'por	27	81	r
Bangkok	33	91	f	Funchal	21	70	f	Milan	18	64	f	St'kholm	0	32	sn
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	14	57	s	Montreal	13	55	f	Strasb'rg	15	59	f
Barcelona	18	64	f	Gibraltar	19	66	f	Moscow	18	64	f	Sydney	21	70	c
Beirut	26	79	f	Helsinki	8	46	c	Munich	13	55	c	Tangier	19	66	c
Belgrade	20	68	f	Hong K	29	84	f	Nairobi	23	73	f	Tel Aviv	34	93	s
Berlin	8	46	c	Innsbrck	16	61	f	Naples	17	63	f	Tenerife	23	73	s
Bermuda	22	72	s	Istanbul	19	66	f	N Delhi	36	97	s	Tokyo	21	70	f
Biarritz	17	63	f	Jeddah	34	93	s	N York	21	70	s	Toronto	12	54	f
Bordeaux	21	70	f	Jo'burg	24	75	s	Nice	19	66	f	Tunis	21	70	f
Brussels	10	50	f	Karachi	36	97	s	Paris	11	52	c	Valencia	22	72	f
Budapest	17	63	c	L Palmas	22	72	s	Peking	27	81	s	Vanc'ver	15	59	f
B Aires	23	73	s	Le Touquet	11	52	f	Perth	19	66	f	Venice	14	57	f
Cairo	27	81	s	Lisbon	17	63	c	Prague	10	50	c	Vienna	17	63	f
Cape Tn	20	68	s	Locarno	18	64	s	Reykjavik	3	37	s	Warsaw	7	45	r
Chicago	7	45	r	L Angels	17	63	c	Rhodes	20	68	s	Wash'ton	25	77	s
Ch church	12	54	-	Luxembg	10	50	f	Rio de J	27	81	s	Well'gton	14	57	f
Cologne	11	52	s	Luxor	40	10	f	Riyadh	29	84	f	Zurich	15	59	f

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



Changes to the chart from noon: low A will slowly deepen and move north; high F will drift northeast while high G will move east, high H will decline and move east



ORIANA AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde from Heathrow to Nice on 2 July
● six night Oriana cruise from Cannes to
Southampton via Tarragona and Lisbon
● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 8 July
● six night Oriana cruise to St Petersburg via Oslo and
Copenhagen ● Concorde return to Heathrow £1,999

TORONTO OR EXETER

BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 27 May or 3 Sept
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● Niagara with helicopter ● *Phantom of the Opera*
● Concorde supersonic return to Heathrow £1,999
or £2,699 for Toronto with Ryder Cup on 20 Sept.

Concorde subsonic to Exeter on Bank Holiday
Monday, 8 May ● visit Cathedral ● 100-minute
Concorde supersonic luncheon flight to Heathrow £499

QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 July ● ten night Land of
the Midnight Sun cruise on QE2 to the Norwegian Fjords
● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

Concorde to Stavanger on 24 July ● two night QE2 cruise to
Southampton ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099

Orient-Express to Southampton on 26 July ● five night QE2 cruise to
New York ● tour Boston, Montreal, Ottawa, and Niagara
● Concorde return from Toronto £2,999

Orient-Express to Victoria on 30 Aug. ● seven night QE2 cruise
Around Britain ● Concorde from Paris £1,499

Orient-Express to Beaulieu on 10 May £69 Tel: 01485-578600

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ABTA

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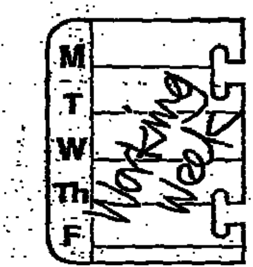
HIDDEN ASSETS 23

Opening the doors to Barclays past



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Jokes apart, selling Skodas is serious business

SPORT 34-40

David Lloyd takes burden of Britain's Davis Cup future

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook
SATURDAY APRIL 29 1995

PASTRIES · COFFEES · ICE CREAMS · PASTRIES · COFFEES · ICE CREAMS · PASTRIES

ROBIN MAYES

Coffee break: Sir Rocco Forte, chairman of Forte, enjoys a cappuccino after opening the group's £10 million Welcome Break motorway service station at Birchanger Green, Essex, the first on the M11 and the first in Britain to include a coffee bar. With him is is David Bidwell, the station's manager

Review criticises agency over £124m Lloyd's loss

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

ONE thousand names who backed two insurance underwriting syndicates at Lloyd's of London could face losses of up to £260 million on policies that pay other names' losses, according to a damning report commissioned by Lloyd's itself.

The loss review on the 1988 underwriting year of syndicates 80 and 843, both formerly managed by the RFA Macmillan agency, has taken two years to report to names, due to legal attempts at delay. It may now be used in lawsuits by 500 members of the Macmillan Names Action Group.

Simon Blunt, chairman of the action group, said: "This loss review is a condemnation not only of those responsible for underwriting and managing the syndicates during the 1980s, but also a condemnation of the failure of self-regulation at Lloyd's. It fully supports and justifies the litigation which this action group has commenced and will pursue with vigour."

The 180-page Macmillan loss review, drawn up by Sir Michael Lickiss, a past president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, finds that by the end of 1992 the two syndicates had a combined loss of £124 million for 1988 and two subsequent underwriting years. All are still open for claims. Syndicate 80 lost £40 million for 1988, 225 per cent of its total capacity.

Both syndicates were nominally conducting marine insurance business. During the 1980s, however, John Macmillan and his fellow underwriters also took on personal stop loss (PSL) business, which insures names in other Lloyd's syndicates against high losses, and equivalent protection plans for the estates of names who die. These ran up disproportionate losses when the Lloyd's market as a whole suffered big trading losses. Some names claim they did not know that PSL business was restarted in 1988.

Sir Michael's review says that the board of RAF Macmillan & Co Ltd relied largely on Mr Macmillan and that auditors had highlighted poor accounting systems and lack of qualified staff. Losses were partly due to "an underwriting approach to writing PSL business which fell short of what could reasonably have been expected." Sir Michael says Mr Macmillan "did not appreciate the high-risk nature of writing PSL whereby the losses of one set of Names were passed onto another. Since a relatively small number of syndicates wrote PSL, the losses of a substantial proportion of Names were borne by a small number of syndicates". The syndicates did not set aside enough reserves and estate protection policies were not reinsured.

Mr Macmillan resigned in July 1988, after complaints from an agency acting for names. The syndicates are now run by another agency.

Losses of Macmillan names are among the five most notorious at Lloyd's. Court actions over the Gooda Walker and Feltrim syndicates have been decided in favour of names.

These judgments will absorb much of the market's errors and ommissions insurance cover. The Macmillan syndicates are, therefore, central to renewed attempts by the Council of Lloyd's to settle with names who have suffered the most severe losses. Lloyd's hopes to outline such settlements next month.

Scottish Amicable demerges £8bn arm

By George Sivell

SCOTTISH Amicable, Scotland's leading life assurance mutual, is hiving off its £8 billion investment management arm and incorporating it as a public company under the Scottish Amicable Investment Management name.

The move will eventually allow the management of the fund management business to take a 25 per cent stake in the company. Scottish Amicable said yesterday that it plans to keep a 75 per cent shareholding in the longer term. SAIM has been a separate profit centre within Scottish Amicable for the past four years.

The rest of the shares will be bought by Graeme Knox, the managing director of Scottish Amicable Investment Management, and other senior managers. Mr Knox declined to say how much the managers would be spending on the shares. Some of the SAIM stock will be granted under option.

Mr Knox said that SAIM will expand the £2.5 billion of funds managed outside Scottish Amicable and will relocate from Amicable House to the Grosvenor Building, a new development in the centre of Glasgow. By creating a separate company and offering shares in the company SAIM hopes to be able to retain and attract top fund managers.

Bernard Solomons, the chairman of Allied Provincial Securities and a member of the board of the London Stock Exchange, is to become chairman of SAIM. Mr Solomons replaces as chairman Roy Nicolson, the managing director of Scottish Amicable.

Mr Knox said in Glasgow yesterday: "At a time when many in-house investment teams are being disbanded, largely because they lack sufficient expertise to compete in global markets, it is very exciting to have the opportunity to invest further in the recruitment and development of people and the systems that support them."

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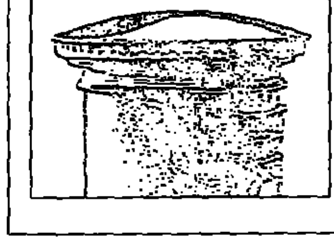

30
A mail shot in the arm for savers

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3216.7	(-0.9)
Yield	4.24%	
FT-SE A All share	1578.67	(+0.27)
Nikkei	16806.75	(-77.24)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4296.02	(-18.88)*
S&P Composite	511.77	(-1.78)*

Federal Funds	6%*	([illegible]%)
Long Bond	103[illegible]*	(103[illegible])
Yield	7.37%*	(7.33%)

3-mth interbank	6[illegible]%	(6[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	103½	(103[illegible])

New York:		
$	1.6095*	(1.6170)
London:		
$	1.6085	(1.6151)
DM	2.2316	(2.2256)
FFr	7.9170	(7.8780)
SFr	1.8425	(1.8335)
Yen	135.16	(134.08)
£ Index	84.6	(84.7)

London:		
DM	1.3850*	(1.3789)
FFr	4.9175*	(4.8790)
SFr	1.1450*	(1.1365)
Yen	84.03*	(83.69)
$ Index	87.8	(87.6)

Tokyo close Yen 83.75

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$18.40	($18.45)

London close	$389.55	($388.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Digging deep

Costain Group, the struggling building contractor, plunged to a £180 million loss during 1994 and put a firm lid on any prospects of a takeover bid arriving for the company.
Page 22

Thorn EMI shares surge on talk of music sale

By Martin Waller

SHARES in Thorn EMI surged yesterday after reports that the group is in talks to sell its profitable music business — home of the Beatles, Frank Sinatra and Janet Jackson — to Walt Disney.

Thorn shares rose 28p to £11.37p during the day, on steady volumes.

The group would not comment formally. "It's a market rumour — we don't know where it's coming from," a spokeswoman said. There was speculation that it could stem from the known friendship between Sir Colin Southgate, the group's chairman, and his counterpart at Disney, Michael Eisner.

Industry insiders were, however, talking down the story, which apparently emanated from music industry circles in Los Angeles.

The top price put on the deal, $5 billion, was still seen as too low for Thorn to be prepared to relinquish control. The company has a market capitalisation of almost £5 billion and the vast bulk of this is accounted for by the music business, which includes the Virgin label.

Any purchase by Disney might threaten the roster of artists, such as the Rolling Stones and Mike Oldfield, who were unsettled at Thorn's purchase of Virgin from Richard Branson for £593 million in 1992 but opted to remain with the new owner.

Thorn insiders said there had been no suggestion the group was planning a music sale. Last year Sir Colin went to some length to talk down rumours that the group would demerge music from its other main business, electrical appliance rental.

Southgate: friendly terms

QMH shareholders back refinancing

By Our City Staff

QUEENS Moat Houses, the hotel chain that collapsed dramatically two years ago, is a step closer to being a public listed company again after a meeting of its various classes of shareholders nodded through a financial restructuring that will leave most of the equity in the hands of the banks.

The board who rescued the company after it sank under a £1 billion mountain of debt received some hostile questioning, but in the end, an overwhelming 99 per cent-plus vote in favour of their proposals, which needed a 75 per cent majority of all shares cast.

The company will now apply to the courts on May 17 for permission to have the shares relisted immediately.

Support for the proposals came after a sober warning from Stanley Metcalfe, the chairman, that the alternative was liquidation. "Without the financial restructuring, the group cash flow will remain inadequate to cover its interest bill by some considerable margin," he said. Even with the restructuring, he added, "there are a large number of risks, all of which will have to be dealt with as we go along."

Andrew Coppel, chief executive, did reassure the shareholders that, based on the company's operating plan, a restructured Queens Moat would be viable.

John Bairstow, the former chairman who attended the meeting, later said the restructuring was the only approach the new board could have taken. He has a legal action outstanding against his successors for loss of office.

Shareholders who put together a rival package, which was rejected by the board, backed the refinancing, but with reservations.

Germany's king of the castles under siege

By Colin Narbrough

THE "king of the castles", a flamboyant German tycoon who has been snapping up his country's heritage, is in danger of falling from the battlements.

Germany's banks have become nervous about Herbert Hillebrand's free-spending habits and are threatening to raise the drawbridge on his 27 castles and DM800 million debts.

In the past five years, Herr Hillebrand, a Rhinelander in his mid-50s, has become a one-man National Trust. He earned his nickname for his passion for buying up ancient castles and forts across Germany. So moved was he by the fall of the Berlin Wall that he expanded his property business into the wastelands of the former communist economy in the East, buying up (at giveaway prices) all manner of buildings with development potential.

Property market analysts say he simply over-reached himself with his ambition to invest DM2 billion in eastern Germany. The liquidity problems that have emerged in the very private Hillebrand empire have prompted concern that Germany is headed for another high-profile property collapse only a year after Jurgen Schneider, the failed tycoon, fled the country.

With a personal fortune put at DM300 million, Herr Hillebrand was reported by the Bundesbank to rule a company DM800 million in hock, mainly mortgage lenders, at the end of last year.

Deutsche Bank, the "godfather" of German banking, took most of the punishment over the Schneider case. But Commerzbank, which survived the Schneider failure unscathed, is believed to have the worst exposure to the Hillebrand group, with some DM100 million outstanding.

A Catholic who usually sports a generous cross, like a bishop, Herr Hillebrand claims that he has amassed his mountain of historical piles for his 14 children — his "greatest riches".

He has admitted to a Cologne newspaper that he had lost a "hell of a lot" on bad investment decisions in the East, where many west German entrepreneurs have run into costly problems after gaining access to the market at almost no cost.

Herr Hillebrand, who is engaged in more than 130 property projects, started to show signs of difficulties last year, when workers on some of his sites had their pay delayed for weeks. The latest casualty is a 140-metre office bloc in Cologne that has just been shelved.

The slump in commercial property values in west Germany has been an important factor in undermining companies like Herr Hillebrand's. He attributes his woes to losses arising from four businesses in the east German privatisation agency, but says he is ready to sell off DM400 million worth of assets to keep his firm afloat.

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Slowing US growth takes pressure off rates

By Colin Narbrough

AMERICAN growth showed a moderate annualised rate of 2.8 per cent in the first quarter of this year which could be enough to persuade the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates unchanged until after the summer.

But the dollar moved ahead sharply as the foreign exchange market reacted to contradictory evidence from the Chicago purchasing managers' index. It closed in London at DM1.3865, against DM1.3730 on Thursday, and 84.02 yen (Y83.62).

Wall Street shares fell as the bond market was sold off in response to the Chicago index, but analysts said *that evidence of pockets of strength* in the economy did not give the whole picture. Next week's employment figures will be watched closely for more signs of robustness.

Analysts, however, said lingering hopes after the Group of Seven finance ministers' communiqué on policy co-ordination this week, that US interest rates would be raised to support the dollar, still look set to evaporate unless there is a run of very strong economic indicators.

Preliminary Commerce Department data, published yesterday, showed the gross domestic product (GDP) growing at its weakest since the summer of 1993, which represented a sharp slowdown from the 5.1 per cent annualised growth rate in the *final quarter of last year*. The economy grew 4.1 per cent in 1994, its best performance in a decade. Final sales slowed to an annualised growth rate of 1.8 per cent in the first quarter this year from 5.7 per cent in the previous quarter, underlining the magnitude of the deceleration.

With the build-up of stocks overhanging the second quarter, analysts believe the Fed will want to wait until the third quarter before changing interest rates. Business stocks showed the largest increase for ten years in the first quarter.

The interest rate increases the Fed has made since February last year have been seen by some economists as a threat *that could push the* economy back into recession. Others *believe the Fed has put America on* course for a soft landing. First-quarter growth fell slightly short of market forecasts, but the Chicago business barometer, issued later by the purchasing management association of Chicago, showed a rise to 57.6, after seasonal adjustment, in April, from 55 in March, suggesting a "strong start" to this quarter.

The GDP figures were welcome by the Clinton administration, which said the data showed that America was moving to a "more sustainable long-term growth path".

Importantly, the inflation indicators linked to GDP all appeared well behaved and were in line with *modest increases for the first quarter* seen in consumer price inflation *numbers. Consumer spending*, which accounts for about two thirds of GDP, slowed sharply to an annualised growth rate of 1.4 per cent from 5.7 per cent in the final quarter last year.

In spite of the weaker dollar, net exports fell back in the first quarter, in part reflecting Mexico's economic crisis.

☐ Japan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 3 per cent in March, pushing the annual average rate to 2.9 per cent. The annual jobless rate for the year to March — the same as the year to December 1994 figure — *was the highest since* the current survey system began in 1953. The *number of unemployed in* March increased 110,000 to 2.19 *million*.

US write-off puts Costain into the red by £180m

By Martin Waller

COSTAIN Group, the struggling building contractor, has unveiled worse *figures than* expected for 1994 and put a lid *on any prospects of a takeover* bid for the company.

Alan Lovell, the finance director, said the company was not in bid talks with any party. An earlier approach, widely rumoured to have come *from P&O, owner of the* Bovis construction group and *reported to shareholders*, foundered in March.

The statement to shareholders made it clear that while further approaches would have to be considered by the company, "its clear priority is to deliver an improvement in performance which preserves the option of continued independence, thereby securing the best conditions for recovering value for shareholders".

Costain slumped to a £180 million pre-tax loss last year, a dramatic deterioration from £67.1 million of profits in 1993. But both figures were heavily impacted by special factors.

In 1993, Costain made £68.5 million of profits from mining operations in Australia that were sold. *In 1994, there was a* £141 million write-down on the US coal business, which the company failed to sell.

There is again no dividend. Substantial losses had been expected from Costain yesterday, but the write-offs exceeded the market's forecasts and the shares, which have received a mauling as the company's *fortunes declined*, fell another 1¼p to 12½p.

The company stressed that its financial position was underpinned by banking and bonding facilities that were "adequate to cover expected requirements". But the *write-down on US coal left net assets* at a level where, under the *Companies Act. Costain will* have to call a shareholders meeting to restructure and consolidate the share capital.

"Our objective is to improve results in coal — that will enable us to recommence the *sale process*," *said Mr Lovell*. But the US mining operations *lost £40.4 million last year*, before the write-off.

The write-off reduces the value of the US business to £38 million, although included within this is an unspecified provision for reclaiming and cleaning up an exhausted gold mine in South Carolina. The *new book value of the US coal* mines is therefore thought to *be closer to £50 million*.

The core engineering and construction side saw operating profits fall from £15.2 million to £9.3 million, and this last figure included a £5 million write-back of provisions originally taken to cover losses on the contract to build *the Channel Tunnel. Costain* said market conditions in that *sector remained* "extremely difficult", although the business in the UK managed a £6.5 million profit last year.

The residential and commercial property division translated a £200,000 profit into a £1.4 million loss. Mr Lovell said the company was hopeful the current year would see some movement on *one of the company's biggest* potential developments, the *rebuilding of the Spitalfields* market, in east London.

Tempus, page 24

NEIL PLUMB

Mark Riches leads the group buying the knitwear firm founded by the DeZille family

Sweater Shop sold for £150m

By Eric Reguly

THE Sweater Shop, a Leicester knitwear manufac*turer and retailer was yester*day sold by the DeZille family that founded it 23 years ago, for £150 million.

The new owners, headed by Mark Riches, 47, the former managing director of the defunct Cargo Club division of Nurdin & Peacock, plan to *expand the retail network* and, ultimately, float the company. *Ten new shops will* open this year, making 59.

Mr Riches, who becomes the Sweater Shop's managing *director, said the buy-out* group plans no major operational or structural changes. "It's a successful format and only a fool would tamper with it," he said.

Roughly half of the £150 million was provided by Morgan Grenfell Development Capital. The other half, in the form of a loan, was provided by NatWest Markets Acquisition Finance.

*Mr Riches and two col*leagues own about 20 per cent of the company. The DeZille family retains somewhat less *than 20 per cent, but is* relinquishing all manage*ment control. Brian DeZille*, the founder and former chairman, and his son, Graham, remain as consultants.

About £25 million in working capital, which will be used to open more stores, was included in the package. The expansion will be concentrated in the South East.The seven manufacturing sites in *the Leicester region and Scot*land, which employ two-thirds of the company's 1,600 employees, will be retained.

Nadir back in control of Cypriot businesses

ASIL NADIR, former head of the collapsed Polly Peck International (PPI), who jumped bail in England after being charged with theft involving £34 million, is now joint owner *of the company that bought* the bulk of PPI assets in his native northern Cyprus (Colin Narbrough writes).

The fugitive Mr Nadir and Sidika Atalay, a wealthy Turkish Cypriot businesswoman *have each taken 50 per cent* holdings in Learned, the shell company that bought the local PPI businesses from the administrators on March 24 for $7 million. Ms Atalay's Deniz Bank funded the purchase.

Mr Nadir is understood to have entered into a deal with Ms Atalay, who last year sold the Istanbul Mövenpick Hotel, under which she will control the Jasmine Court Hotel, the jewel in the crown of the former PPI portfolio in northern Cyprus, and the Palm Beach, its sister hotel.

Ms Atalay is believed to be planning to buy the Crystal Cove Hotel in northern Cyprus, still owned by PPI and 95 per cent finished. The hotels are considered the best cash cows of the businesses Learned has bought.

Mr Nadir, who doggedly resisted the administrators efforts to gain control of the hotels and other northern Cyprus assets, will control Unipac, the packaging business, and half of Sunzest, the fruit packing company.

The appointment of Mr Nadir and Ms Atalay took place on March 27 and it is understood that a day later they acquired the shares from Elmas Gurzelyurtlu, the Turkish Cypriot who concluded the deal with the administrators.

The companies register in Nicosia was last week supplied with information about the change of directors at Learned, but there is no legal *requirement for changes in* ownership of the company to be reported until the end of the financial year.

Since he fled to northern Cyprus in 1993, Mr Nadir has enjoyed powerful political support from, amongst others, Rauf Denktask, the president. *The government's financial* difficulties have, however, *forced it to try to get tough* with Mr Nadir over the big debts the PPI companies have run up with the authorities.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Advertising sales lift Grampian TV

GRAMPIAN Television, the independent broadcaster, said cost cutting and a 4 per cent *rise in* advertising revenue underpinned a 15.7 per cent rise in profits in the year to February 28. *Pre-tax profits rose to £4.4 million* (£3.81 million) on turnover of £21.3 million (£20.53 million). Profits were struck after *the deduction of Channel* 3 licence payments of £732,000 (£722,000). Calum MacLeod, chairman, said the *rise in advertising revenue* was achieved in spite of a change of sales house during the year.

Earlier this month, Grampian received a boost when a new system of programme subsidies was ratified. After more than a year of debate the big ITV companies accepted that Grampian, and four other smaller companies, could continue to receive the national ITV network at a discount for the next four years, although they will pay 8.5 per cent more. The subsidy was originally put in place in 1991. Mr MacLeod said: "The agreements reached within ITV on our share of transmission costs and payments for the supply of our network programmes adds to our confidence in *forward* planning." Earnings on ordinary and non-voting 'A' shares were 21.72p, up from 18.71p. *There is a final dividend of 7p*, due June 29, giving a total of 9p (7.5p). **Tempus, page 24**

N&P bars new accounts

NATIONAL & PROVINCIAL Building Society has suspended new savings accounts openings. The society said this was a precautionary measure, taken in the context of a significant increase in new account openings *this week in response to* a statement by Abbey National that it was seeking talks with the N&P board *with a view to acquiring the society*. N&P said it would make available deposit accounts, which do not grant *membership rights*, with matching terms to the existing savings share accounts, during the course of next week.

BCCI staff lodge appeal

CREDITORS of the Bank of Credit and Commerce Inter*national (BCCI) could face months of further delays* in compensation as four former bank staff lodged an appeal against a $1.8 billion *settlement* yesterday. The settlement, agreed in January with BCCI's main shareholder, Abu Dhabi, had been due to begin paying out soon. The appeal has been filed in the Luxembourg Court which takes its two-month summer recess from July 15. Unless heard by then, the first payments to creditors may be delayed until at least the end of this year.

Reuters lifts revenue

REUTERS HOLDINGS, the international financial information and trading group, yesterday reported first quarter revenues of £628 million, a rise of 22 per cent over the same period in 1994. Much of the increase, however, came from two recent acquisitions, Quotron Systems, which provides of equity quotes in the US, and Teknekron Software Systems, an American software supplier. Excluding the acquisitions, revenue growth in the quarter rose 16 per cent. Profit figures were not released. ***Tempus, page 24***

Orange spreads

ORANGE, the newest and smallest of the four mobile-phone companies, said it will expand its network by about 50 per cent over the next two years. The company, controlled by Hutchison Whampoa of Hong Kong, said it will build another 1,000 base stations, raising the total to 3,000. The extra stations will raise the potential network capacity to about ten million users. The cost will fall within Orange's total planned investment of £700 million. Orange also *reported that its handset shortage had been eliminated*.

James Dickie purchase

JAMES DICKIE, the engineered components manufacturer, plans to acquire Belcot, the privately owned press tool manufacturer, for £1.7 million. James Dickie is raising an additional £1.9 million through a placing and open offer of shares at 200p each to provide working capital. Existing shares rose 13p to 230p on the news. The company reported *pre-tax profits of £819,000 in the six months to February 28*, while Belcot reported a pre-tax loss of £90,000 (£179,000 *profit) in the year to December 31*.

Conrad passes payout

CONRAD, the Manchester sports and leisure company, reported profits of £61,000 (£23,000) before tax in the six months to December 31. In spite of the modest improvement, the company remains in debt, and was again not able to pay an interim dividend. Earnings per share sank to 0.07p (0.15p). Directors are taking action to eliminate deferred shares, *place reserves in surplus* and put the group in position to pay dividends. The group has recently renewed its contract with *Sir Bobby Charlton to head its soccer consulting* company.

Anagen shares drop

SHARES of Anagen, placed at 100p less than two years ago, fell a further 4p to 49p yesterday. This was in spite of an upbeat statement by the company, which develops clinical analysis systems. Mervyn Sennett, left, the managing *director, said* the first products were now being marketed and beginning to generate income. In 1994, losses were reduced to £3.98 million before tax from £4.03 million, with a loss of 8.6p a share (11p loss). Sales increased to £759,000 from £231,000. *There was also* a reduction in expenditure on research and development *to* £2.4 million from £3.56 million.

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Halifax sells fine arts auctioneer to Phillips

By Martin Barrow

HALIFAX Building Society, currently involved in the proposed merger with the Leeds, yesterday announced the disposal *of one of its lesser*-known ventures in the world of fine arts.

The building society has sold Henry Spencer & Sons, the fine art auctioneer and valuer, to Phillips, the international auctioneer, for an undisclosed sum.

Henry Spencer, based at Retford, Nottinghamshire, *was purchased in 1986 as part* of a regional estate agency *chain that was taken over by* Halifax Estate Agencies at a time when the building society was expanding its interests to take advantage of a booming residential property market.

Christopher Weston, chair*man and chief executive* of Phillips, said the acquisition of Henry Spencer filled a gap in the Phillips UK network in the Midlands, enhancing the group's prospects as a whole.

Phillips is the third largest auction house in the world, behind Sothebys and Christie's, and is the largest privately owned auction house.

Halifax expects to seek a stock market listing within *two years after the Leeds* merger, ending its status as a building society.

BA and Qantas to get route share approval

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

BRITISH Airways and Qantas, the Australian airline in which BA holds a 25 per cent stake, are expecting the go-*ahead to pool their services* on the A$1 billion (£450 million) "kangaroo route" between Britain and Australia after reaching a compromise with the Australian trade practices commission.

The airlines estimate that such an agreement would save them about A$90 million a year. The decision marks an *about-turn for the commis*sion, which last November *vetoed the proposals*.

BA and Qantas between them account *for about* 50 per cent of the business on the route. This time round, however, analysts expect the two sides to have reached a compromise which involves some restrictions on pricing.

*The Australian federal gov*ernment has also been pressing the commission to reverse its earlier decision in the run up to the A$2 billion privatisation of Qantas this summer.

A transport analyst in Sydney said: "The Trade Practices Commission was always on shaky ground with its rejection of the deal. The kangaroo *route is a highly competitive* route with many airlines com*peting for business*."

Government accused of insider deal

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

LABOUR yesterday asked the Serious Fraud Office to investigate what it claimed was insider dealing by the Government over the sale last month of its remaining shares in the electricity generating companies.

After taking legal advice, Labour said *that the Government was in breach of at* least two pieces of legislation covering *share dealing*.

After the price of the shares had been set *and trading begun. Stephen Littlechild*, the electricity industry regulator, announced his intention to consult on changing the price caps on the regional electricity companies. As a result of the intervention, the share prices of the two companies fell below the prices that the Government had set for them.

In a formal letter to George Staple, SFO Director, Labour says Professor Littlechild made it clear in media interviews that the Government had prior knowledge of what he was doing. The party is also using as evidence letters from *Professor Littlechild*, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Michael Heseltine, *President of the Board of Trade*.

In the Labour letter, Jack Cunning*ham, Shadow Trade and Industry Secre*tary, says that this was "clearly a *deliberate attempt by the DTI and the* Treasury to allow private investors to commit funds and take investment decisions whilst the Government witheld price sensitive information". Labour claims this constitutes a breach of the 1993 Criminal Justice Act.

In addition, Labour alleges that the Government colluded in making a false market for shares in the two companies by concealing material facts, in breach of the 1986 Financial Services Act.

Dr Cunningham said yesterday: "*It is* clear to me that were this a private *individual or company they would now* be under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office."

The DTI would not comment yesterday. *It said this was in line with its policy* relating to investigations in this area.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.32	2.15
Austria Sch	16.68	15.18
Belgium Fr	48.80	44.50
Canada $	2.310	2.150
Cyprus Cyp£	0.751	0.696
Denmark Kr	9.38	8.58
Finland Mkk	7.44	6.79
France Fr	8.33	7.68
Germany Dm	2.38	2.17
Greece Dr	380.00	355.00
Hong Kong $	13.14	12.14
Ireland Pt	1.04	0.96
Israel	5.2855	4.5868
Italy Lira	2845.00	2690.00
Japan Yen	149.50	133.50
Malta	0.602	0.547
Netherlds Gld	2.649	2.419
Norway Kr	10.62	9.82
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.42
Spain Pta	206.00	193.00
Sweden Kr	12.33	11.53
Switzerland Fr	1.97	1.79
Turkey Lira	refer	66429.0
USA $	1.713	1.583

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

“British Airways' deadline passed, and *Maurice Saatchi* still had no news. This weekend the World's Favourite Airline is still unable to reach a decision on where to place its coveted *advertising* account. "It's unbearable," said Maurice. "It really is nail-biting stuff ...”

Business Focus — in The Sunday Times tomorrow

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هكذا من الأصل

A WORKING WEEK FOR: DERMOT KELLY

Have you heard the one about the new Skoda?

Forget the jokes. Selling Skodas to the UK market is a serious business. And anyway, Dermot Kelly has heard them all, as **Jon Ashworth** discovered

ADRIAN BROOKS

Aiming to have the last laugh: *Dermot Kelly is about to take the lid off Skoda's new secret weapon — and he is expecting bumper sales*

In days gone by, Dermot Kelly did not always enjoy *appearing in public*. Not only does he *drive* a Skoda — instantly exposing him to ridicule — but he *runs* the company that sells the Czech cars in the UK. As such, he has the "mission impossible" of casting off the Skoda's laughable image. His week is a nightmare. The jokes? The quips? He's heard them all.

Like the one about the thieves who *broke* into a Skoda, *left the car*, and made *off with the tax disc*. Or the *new model with 16 valves — eight in the engine and eight in the radio. What do you call a* Skoda with a *spoiler?* A Flymo. What *do you* call a Skoda convertible? A skip.

Times have changed, and the Skoda management is starting to have the last laugh. The old "tin box" that inspired the jokes has given way to a sleek hatchback design that is winning over an ever-growing audience. Volkswagen took a majority stake in the Czech car maker in 1991, providing credibility, quality control, and £1.1 billion in fresh investment.

Kelly and his team are about to *take the lid off* Skoda's new secret weapon, a VW Golf-style hatchback called the Felicia. *This, an upgraded version of the six-year-old Skoda* Favorit, *goes on sale on the weekend of May* 13 in an unparalleled blaze of publicity. Thousands of posters will be distributed as part of a £5 million advertising campaign, and 4.5 million brochures will go out with the Sunday newspapers. Felicias will go on display at airports and shopping centres. There is a hard-hitting message behind it: "We've changed the car. Can you change your mind?".

"We have an image problem to address," says Kelly, 42, taking time out from a hectic *round of press briefings and dealer seminars*. "If we *improve the* brand image, *more* people will buy the car. We're saying: 'Don't get hung up on labels.' Everybody knows Skoda makes motorcars, but we have a brand image thing to overcome."

This is something of an understatement. The apocryphal Skoda of legend is an old, rusting heap that does not go very fast and is in constant danger of falling to bits. What do you call a Skoda with twin exhausts? A wheelbarrow. The trouble started in 1977, when the Automobile Association demanded an "urgent investigation" into supposed han*dling defects on the "tin box" of infamy, the* Skoda Estelle. The AA said *the* car *was* "inherently dangerous", adding that it was easily knocked about in high winds. The motoring press joined the chorus, with *Autocar* criticising the brakes, and *Motor* magazine lambasting the Estelle's outdated rear suspension system.

"We had a rear-engined car that didn't perform as well as it could on handling," admits Kelly. "It became tagged 'The Worst Car in Britain'. We *stopped* making them nine years ago." Problems were *swiftly corrected, but the damage had been done. As recently* as 1993, reports *surfaced* in *Which?* magazine about wheels falling off Skodas. It was later established that independent tyre fitters were to blame — the Czechs were not at fault — but it all helped to perpetuate the myth. The car was back in the news in April 1994, when an Estelle plunged 150ft off a cliff near Brighton. The weight of the engine caused it to turn round in mid air and land on its back, cushioning the driver from fatal injury. All that is a thing of the past... or is it? What do you call a turbocharged Skoda? A Lada.

> ❛ Skoda is second only to Mercedes Benz in repeat purchases ❜

Kelly turns the other cheek, rattling off the statistics. Skoda *is* second only to Mercedes Benz in repeat purchases, with a 72 *per cent loyalty rating*. Skoda *customer* service was rated *joint sixth* with Nissan in *this year's* JD Power/BBC *Top Gear* league table, making it the only European brand in the top ten. Skoda drivers *like* their cars.

The build-up to the launch has seen Kelly drive frantically from meeting to meeting, without, as far as one can tell, losing any tyres or blowing any gaskets. He has made use of seven of the new Felicias so far, and *claims* a high *success* rate. "None of them rattles or squeaks, no bumpers fall off. This is a reliable car. I had a lightbulb go on one of the *dashboards* and replaced a *seatbelt*...." *His current choice* is an *Atlantic Green* model with the badges covered in masking tape to deter snoopers. His wife, Elizabeth, drives a Favorit estate.

Kelly says the time for jokes is over. "It's the ultimate paradox. If you have a Skoda, the loyalty is fantastic. Inside, everybody loves Skoda. Outside, you must be the car in the car park with the crashed front end."

He accepts that little will change overnight. "It will take anything up to five years to make that change. This car gives *us the opportunity to make that quantum* leap."

So who is the typical Skoda buyer? "Well, they're about 50, but getting younger," says Kelly, cautiously. An image of an extremely old man hunched over a steering wheel springs to mind. Kelly is diplomatic. "We don't object to the grey pound." The cars are popular with nurses, doctors, teachers, university lecturers... even journalists. "Nineties' values have changed," he says. "It's not about badges. It's about value for money." The Felicia is cheap all right, costing £6,000-£8,000 depending on the model, but Kelly *insists* price *is* not *the issue. "Some 68 per cent of buyers go for the top of the range model: tinted* glass, *sunroof*, central locking, alloy wheels. Only 11 per cent go for the basic car."

And there are a lot of Skodas around — 156,000 on British roads, by Kelly's estimates. "About 69 per cent of all cars sold in the last 31 years are still on the road," he says. "They are extremely durable and reliable." This, in part, explains the spectacle of the old, smoking Skoda bumbling up the motorway.

Kelly has been preparing *for the launch since last summer, when he joined Skoda* from Iveco Ford, the truck maker, and he claims not to have been put off by the awful image. "I was greatly attracted by the fact that this brand might change," he says. "The buzz of turning round a brand image." A marketing and public relations team has been built from scratch.

Meltdown week began at 9.30am on Easter Monday, when Kelly arrived — without mishap — at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham, after screaming up the M40 from his home near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. "We spent the day rehearsing for the dealer launch. The crew finished about 5.30 the next morning, and I was back by 7.30 for one more run-through." More than 200 Skoda dealers were about to have their first glimpse of the Felicia — and drama was called for. After the speeches, the lights went out — deliberately — and the auditorium revolved through 180 degrees while Kelly frantically scuttled through the gloom by torchlight. "I nearly fell off the stage during the first rehearsal," he admits. *The curtain went up, and there it was: a revolving* Skoda, *bathed in white light*.

> ❛ The curtain went up and there it was: a Skoda bathed in white light ❜

Intensive presentations followed. "We literally showed them the car in its pieces hung on the wall," says Kelly. "Heating system, dashboard, Bosch fuel injection system, new anti-roll bars." The briefings and presentations went on for three days. "At 4.30 each day, I leapt in the car and drove to Telford for dinner with members of the motoring press. Those went on until one in the morning. We briefed 600 dealers and 105 journalists in all."

After a further round of interviews on Friday morning, Kelly sped back to head office in Milton Keynes to plot another crucial event: the Skoda dealer conference. The annual shindig for more than 400 dealers is going upmarket. "We've never been further than Cyprus or Majorca before," he says. "This year, we're going to Orlando." The afternoon was given over to a meeting on exposure marketing — *displaying Skodas at railway stations and airports — before the team retired for a "quick beer down the pub". After a day catching up with* paperwork at *home*, Kelly spent Sunday with his advisers in London, preparing for a fresh round of press briefings.

To be fair, the Skoda of the 1990s is an entirely different animal to the claptrap heaps of the Sixties and Seventies. Volkswagen's influence looms large, but it will still take guts to admit to your friends that you drive a Skoda. Nevertheless, the UK remains an important market, accounting *for about a third of Western European sales. The Czechs plan to produce three completely new models* in the next five years. Kelly's weeks will not be getting any easier.

When the heat dies down, he may find time for his other pressing task — rebuilding his sizeable garden. He has been shifting 45 tonnes of soil using a large, noisy vehicle that has poor acceleration and creates a lot of smoke. Neighbours wonder what the Kellys' driveway is coming to: two *Skodas... and a bulldozer*.

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Hanging the doors of history

The centrepiece of the Barclays art collection is held in high regard at the bank's headquarters. **Neil Bennett** looked it up

Visitors to the shiny new Barclays headquarters at the end of Lombard Street in the City *may be perturbed when they* look up *and* see two *enormous bronze doors suspended*, 30 ft up, on the wall of the atrium. Even the most experimental architect would hesitate to put a door where only the most determined climber could knock on it.

But these are no ordinary doors, and not the bank's emergency exit for disgruntled customers either. They represent a link with Barclays *history* and are *the centrepiece* of an impressive collection of art and artefacts, which the bank has built up in more than three centuries.

The doors originally stood at the main entrance to the previous Barclays headquarters on the same site, which was built in 1959 and demol*ished* 31 years later. They were covered in gold leaf then, and inevitably became known as the "golden gates". As such they came to symbolise the growing power of Barclays in the 1960s and 1970s, when it rose to become Britain's largest bank.

They were designed by Sir Charles *Wheeler*, the renowned British sculptor and *former* president of the Royal Academy. Wheeler was one of the most prolific architectural sculptors of the 20th century, and also worked on the Bank of England a hundred yards away. The *doors depict the familiar* Barclays eagle in a fiercer and more angular guise than normal and some more abstract designs, such as the face of the sun and a female figure curled into a foetal position. Like all the best bank architecture, they manage to convey the impression of wealth and security simultaneously.

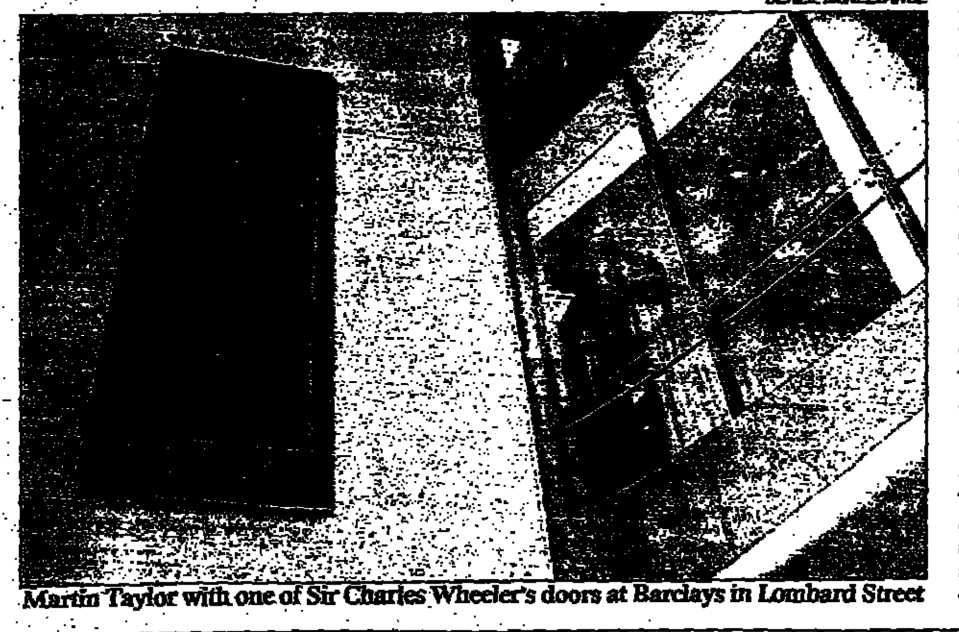
The doors reached their present position after the *determined efforts* of Peter Thompson, a director of Barclays Property Services. When the previous head office was demolished, they were placed in store until someone decided their fate. As the fitting out of the new building began last year, the bank was still uncertain. At one point the designers suggested placing them under *perspex in the floor*. Then one of the bank's internal architects hit *on the idea of* putting them on the wall.

That created almost as many problems as it solved. Mounting more than a tonne of metal on a wall is never easy. The job was made simpler when the doors were sent away to an engineering firm, which managed to slice off their backs, reducing *their weight. Only then could they* be lifted by a crane, brought into the building, on to massive bolts in the wall. The doors are *not* Wheeler's only works within the bank. *Throughout the head office, there are carvings by him from* the old head office of pieces of Barclays history. There are sculptures of the signs from the inns and churches that stood on the site and the crests of the founding families. Altogether, there are 31 of these plaques. Some are still in storage as the bank works *out how it can display so many at* once. Two *other major sculptures*, of George and the Dragon and Androcles and the Lion, which used to sit on the bank's roof, have been moved to its administration centre in Westwood Park near Coventry.

Mr Thompson said: "What we tried to do in a modern building was to reflect some of our traditions in some of the public areas. It would have been a crime to melt down or smash beautiful things like these."

Barclays has a long association with the Lombard Street site, *as the Wheeler sculptures hint. In 1690, one* John Freame was recorded as a goldsmith operating from the Three Anchors inn near by. His daughter married James Barclay, and the name, as they say, has stuck. Today, Martin Taylor, the chief executive, can look up at those doors every time he arrives at work as a reminder of the Barclays heritage.

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Martin Taylor with one of Sir Charles Wheeler's doors at Barclays in Lombard Street

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BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S NEW RATES OF INTEREST EFFECTIVE FROM 1 MAY 1995

Account	Amount Invested	Annual Interest Gross % p.a.	Annual Interest Net Equiv. % p.a.	Monthly Interest Gross % p.a.	Monthly Interest Net Equiv. % p.a.
Ordinary	£1+	0.75	0.56	–	–
Timesaver	£1+	0.75	0.56	–	–
	£250+	1.10	0.83	–	–
	£1,000+	2.10	1.58	–	–
Monthly Saver (Premium Rate)#	£10+	8.00	6.00	–	–
First Choice	£50+	2.05	1.54	–	–
(Including Bonus)	£500+	4.20	3.15	–	–
	£3,000+	4.75	3.56	–	–
	£10,000+	5.20	3.90	–	–
	£25,000+	5.80	4.35	–	–
Special Asset	£2,500+	4.75	3.56	4.65	3.49
	£5,000+	5.15	3.86	5.05	3.79
	£10,000+	6.15	4.61	6.00	4.50
	£20,000+	6.60	4.95	6.40	4.80
	£40,000+	6.75	5.06	6.55	4.91
	£80,000+	7.05	5.29	6.85	5.14
Classic II TESSA*		6.25	–	–	–
High-Return II TESSA*		6.95	–	–	–
High-Return II Feeder		6.95	5.21	–	–
Premier Deposit	£100+	1.75	1.31	–	–
	£10,000+	4.90	3.68	–	–
	£25,000+	5.65	4.24	–	–
Privilege Bond†	£5,000+	6.55	4.91	6.35	4.76
	£25,000+	7.00	5.25	6.80	5.10
	£50,000+	7.15	5.36	6.95	5.21
	£100,000+	7.30	5.48	7.05	5.29

ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

Account	Amount Invested	Annual Interest Gross % p.a.	Annual Interest Net Equiv. % p.a.	Monthly Interest Gross % p.a.	Monthly Interest Net Equiv. % p.a.
One Month	£1+	3.70	2.78	3.65	2.74
Notice Account	£2,500+	4.25	3.19	4.15	3.11
	£25,000+	5.20	3.90	5.05	3.79
	£50,000+	5.70	4.28	5.55	4.16
Bonus (Inc. full bonus)	£1,000+	4.45	3.34	–	–
	£10,000+	5.45	4.09	–	–
Option 6	£2,500+	5.35	4.01	5.20	3.90
Vintage Bond 3	£5,000+	6.35	4.76	6.15	4.61
	£25,000+	6.85	5.14	6.60	4.95
	£50,000+	7.10	5.33	6.80	5.10
	£100,000+	7.25	5.44	6.95	5.21
Vintage Bond and Renewal	£50+	1.30	0.98	–	–
Bond matured accounts	£500+	3.45	2.59	–	–
	£3,000+	4.00	3.00	–	–
	£10,000+	4.45	3.34	–	–
	£25,000+	5.05	3.79	–	–
Maturity Bond	£5,000+	6.60	4.95	6.40	4.80
	£25,000+	7.00	5.25	6.80	5.10
Annual	£10,000+	6.45	4.84	6.25	4.69
	£30,000+	6.85	5.14	6.65	4.99
Real Gold (Inc. full bonus)	£1+	3.75	2.81	–	–
Flexible Savings (Inc. full bonus)	£1+	2.08	1.56	–	–
Deposit	£1+	0.75	0.56	–	–
High Flyer Issue 1	£1,000+	3.45	2.59	–	–
	£10,000+	4.45	3.34	–	–
Super 90	£1,000+	4.20	3.15	–	–
	£25,000+	5.20	3.90	–	–
	£10,000+	–	–	4.30	3.23
S.A.Y.E. (5 Year)*		8.30	–	–	–
S.A.Y.E. (7 Year)*		8.62	–	–	–
Spa TESSA 1*		6.50	–	–	–
Spa TESSA 2*		6.00	–	–	–
TESSA High-Return Feeder 1		6.85	5.14	–	–

	Gross % p.a.		Bonus % p.a.		Tax-Exempt % p.a.		
Optimum TESSA 1	5.75	+	1.00	=	6.75	–	–
Classic TESSA 1	5.75	+	1.00	=	6.75	–	–
High-Return TESSA 1	6.75	+	1.00	=	7.75	–	–

Interest rates are variable and are correct at time of going to press. Net equivalents assume the current basic rate of income tax of 25%. Interest will be payable net of the basic rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or, subject to the required registration, gross. Net rates quoted are rounded and are for illustrative purposes only. #Premium rate applies where 12 consecutive monthly payments are made in the 12 month period and the account remains open on the anniversary. †Only available to maturing Bradford & Bingley Bond holders. *Tax-exempt (free of income tax). For details of other accounts please ask at your local branch.

BRADFORD & BINGLEY
BUILDING SOCIETY

HEAD OFFICE: P.O. BOX 88, CROSSFLATTS, BINGLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE BD16 2UA

STOCK MARKET | MICHAEL CLARK

Thorn jumps on talk of music bid by Disney

LEISURE group **Thorn EMI** stood out with a leap of 28p to £11.37 amid reports that its lucrative music business is up for grabs.

Reports from across the Atlantic claim that Walt Disney is ready to offer $5 billion (£3.1 billion) for the business, which includes the record labels Virgin Music, Capitol and EMI, together with a music library said to contain the copyright of several million titles. Thorn has in the past considered de-merging its music business, but Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman, decided against such a move last summer. The music division is believed to account for about 60 per cent of group profits, which last year amounted to £410 million.

Sir Colin has been busily streamlining the group in recent months, closing down the Rumbelows chain of electrical stores and paying the receiver £35 million for the Dillons and Hatchards book chain.

But last night brokers in London were sceptical about the report. They say that it is unlikely Thorn would be willing to dispose of the business and, if it did, Walt Disney would have to pay substantially more.

The rest of the equity market ended the week on a flat note, unable to sustain an early mark-up after a confident performance overnight on Wall Street which saw the Dow Jones industrial average reach another record high.

In early trading yesterday US share prices moved into negative territory after the latest batch of US economic news. The US gross domestic product slowed during the first quarter, but the latest Chicago purchasing managers index saw a sharp rise in March. This revived fears about another rise in interest rates and prompted a fall of more than 30 points.

It also sent buyers scurrying for cover in London, with the FT-SE 100 index wiping out a lead of almost 15 points to end the session 0.9 points lower at 3,216.7 — a rise on the week of 16.8.

Revived bid speculation lifted **SG Warburg**, the investment bank, a further 20p to 769p. Talk in the City suggest that another deal may be imminent after merger talks with Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank, broke down over terms. This time the name of Merrill Lynch is being mentioned, although Merrill is keen to play down the story. Other potential suitors are said to include the powerful Swiss Bank Corporation and **Schroders**, 2p easier at £16.18. By the close of business last night 1.5 million Warburg shares had been traded.

There was further heavy turnover in **British Steel**, with almost 30 million shares traded as the price rose another 3½p to 169p. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, has raised its pre-tax profits forecast for the current year to March 1996 by £140 million to £970 million and for 1997 by £50 million to £11.70 million. Sentiment was bolstered earlier this week by impressive figures from Bethlehem and Algoma, two of its main US rivals. There is also talk that steel prices are continuing to rise.

Reuters, the international news agency and financial information specialist, fell 11½p to 472½p after warning of a slowdown in revenue growth. Revenue in the first quarter grew 22 per cent to £628 million, with the acquisitions adding £32 million to the total. But Peter Job, chief executive, said that growth in the second quarter will be lower than the first quarter, with no significant benefit from acquisitions. He said that new business levels had also slowed after reaching a peak in the second quarter of last year.

Full-year figures from **Costain**, the troubled construction group, were far worse than even the most pessimistic forecasts. Brokers had pencilled in pre-tax losses of between £18 million and £28 million compared with a profit the previous year of £67.1 million. In the event, losses came out at a staggering £180.4 million. The figure was struck before write-downs totalling £103 million and an exceptional loss of £36.1 million. There is no dividend.

Shareholder funds have dropped £125 million because of the write-offs and Costain will now be forced to call an extraordinary general meeting to implement a financial restructuring of the group.

Grampian Television, where Donald Waters is chief executive, saw its 'A' shares celebrate the company's seventh successive rise in full-year profits with a jump of 16p to 290p. Pre-tax profits were almost 16 per cent better at £4.4 million. Grampian attributed the improvement to a 4 per cent rise in advertising revenue, saying that the group's new sales house had achieved further advertising sales growth, raising Grampian's share of network revenue and attracting new programme sponsors.

Borthwicks, the food products group, firmed 1p to 36p after it emerged that Peter Brackenridge, chief executive and deputy chairman, had taken the chairman's seat after the retirement of non-executive chairman John Thomson.

Lasmo, the oil exploration group which successfully fought off a bid from Enterprise Oil last year, firmed 3p to 168p, supported by optimistic remarks about prospects for the current year by chairman Rudolph Agnew. He was confident of further progress in 1995 with production and realisations on budget, and an improvement in the oil price. The benefits of a firmer dollar had been offset by its weakness against sterling.

☐ **GILT EDGED:** Gilts were hit in late trading by the latest economic data from the US. The June long gilt closed at its low for the week, with a fall of £⁹/₃₂ to £103½ as a total of 53,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 shed £⁵/₁₆ to £96²¹/₃₂, while at the shorter end, Tresury 8 per cent 2000 was two ticks off at £98²⁷/₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average was down 18.68 points to 4,296.02 as concern about inflation over the next couple of months reappeared.

Donald Waters of Grampian saw profits brighten by 16%

It was a busy day for traders at Smith New Court, the quoted stockbroker, as they squared up book positions ahead of the group's financial year-end. Judging by the subsequent 9p rise in the share price to 437p, SNC appears to have coped with the low-volume levels better than many of its rivals.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Cray Electronics	73p	-82p	Profits warning
British Steel	169p	+10p	Institutional support
Fisons	188p	+9p	Revived bid speculation
VSEL	£16.94	+84p	Bid hopes, 30p dividend
National Express	373p	+56p	Acquisition, shares requoted
Yorkshire Tyne Tees	504p	+45p	Speculative buying
DFS Furniture	280p	+35p	Better than expected figures
Bespak	255p	-48p	Profits warning
Amstrad	199p	+15p	Vodafone deal expected

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	4296.02 (-18.68)
S&P Composite	511.77 (-1.78)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	16806.75 (-77.34)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	8361.03 (+48.74)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	416.89 (+1.35)

Sydney:

AO	2050.2 (+17.8)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2015.94 (-10.14)

Singapore:

Straits	2071.27 (+15.27)

Brussels:

General	7398.03 (+10.49)

Paris:

CAC-40	1918.46 (-12.90)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	601.20 (+6.60)

London:

FT 30	2448.7 (+6.7)
FT 100	3216.7 (-0.9)
FT-SE Mid 250	3530.2 (+4.0)
FT-SE-A 350	1598.4 (same)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1311.71 (+4.30)
FT A All-Share	1578.67 (+0.27)
FT Non Financials	1705.35 (+0.68)
FT Fixed Interest	111.49 (+0.22)
FT Govt Secs	91.89 (-0.09)
Bargains	23678
SEAQ Volume	780.0m
USM (Datastrm)	150.17 (-0.01)
US$	1.6097 (-0.0083)
German Mark	2.2241 (+0.0034)
Exchange Index	84.6 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2134
£:SDR	1.0233
RPI	147.5 Mar (3.5%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Biocomp Intl (170)	171	...
Brit Aero Cap Uts p/p	730	+5
Coral Products (60)	63	...
Dumyat IT Cv An Div	103	...
Dumyat IT Month Div	103	...
Edinburgh Japan Tst C	101	...
Fnsbry World Tst	100	...
For/Col Uts (100)	100	...
General Cable (190)	177	-6
Ivory/Sime Disc Uts	480	...
Nail Power (p/p) (476)	181	-1
Precoat Intl (125)	128	+1
Rainford (270)	306	+4
Schroder Inc Gth Fund	104	+1
Schroder Inc Gth Wts	26	-2
Scot Orient Smlr (100)	100	...
Vision Group (97)	140	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Bolton Group n/p (23)	¼	...
Roskel n/p (92)	11	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Regent Inns	366p (+15p)
Filofax	254p (+8p)
Broken Hill	890p (+18p)
Blick	478p (+11p)
Danka Bs Sys	420p (+15p)
Psion	318p (+7p)
Powerscreen	279p (+7p)
First Tech	410p (+16p)
Cadbury-Schw	447½p (+10p)
Thorntons	173p (+15p)
Smith New Court	437p (+9p)
Celltech	306p (+10p)
Scotia	417p (+22p)
Amersham	903p (+8p)
Border TV	217p (+6p)
Grampian	290p (+16p)
MAM	793p (+15p)

FALLS:

Norbain	340p (-8p)
Inchcape	319p (-6p)
Gen Accident	577p (-6p)
Caledonia	648p (-10p)
Land Sec	553p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Contracting crush

WHEN you are in as big a hole as Costain, the only comfort is that rock bottom is not far away, and the company does at least have some sort of strategy to dig itself out again.

The failure to sell the US coal operations was a grievous blow, because it also scuppered the takeover talks that seemed the inevitable resolution to the company's woes. The deal failed because of various technical and geological problems at the main asset, an underground mine in West Kentucky, that could not really have cropped up at a worst time.

Yesterday's one-off write-off for the failure to sell US Coal, recognising a permanent diminution of the value of the business, was higher than expected because of the need to account for goodwill previously written off, but that is probably academic. The whole point is that Costain cannot trade its way out of its difficulties because these are a reflection of the British construction market as a whole. The company is not going to relieve its woes in spite of concentrating on areas where it does well, such as marine civil engineering. The market expects a further small loss of perhaps £6 million pre-tax this year. Shareholders have not seen a dividend since November 1991, and they should not hold their breath for one now.

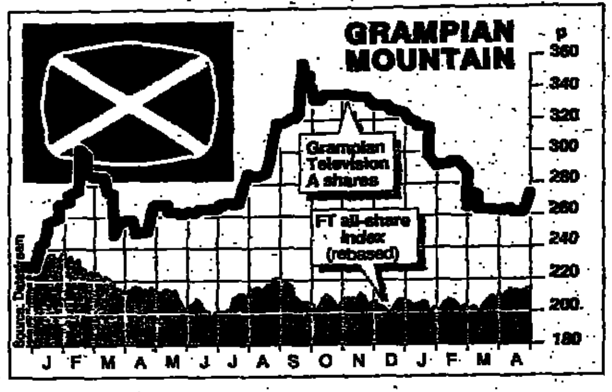
Costain currently has £50 million of debt, in spite of all its disposals and last year's rights issue. This can only be wiped out either by property sales, which would be difficult in this market, or by selling US Coal, which would need the benefits of investment or further profit improvements to be an attractive proposition to a buyer.

Grampian TV

GRAMPIAN did well to avoid any disruption to its advertising revenue last year, considering it was forced to switch to a new sales house during the summer after the round of mega-takeovers in the industry. The 4 per cent rise in advertising revenues may not be the most thrilling performance but it shows that the change was handled relatively smoothly, which is more than some other regional television companies could say in recent times.

Grampian was a wallflower during last year's takeover bids, mainly because its share structure effectively prevents hostile bids. Instead it has been allowed to use its cash flow to expand its interests and profits quietly and efficiently. SCOT FM, its new local radio station, incurred start-up losses of £425,000 but should soon turn round. This is a substantial investment for a company with annual turnover of only £21 million, but the company maintained its momentum with a 16 per cent rise in profits. That speaks volumes for Grampian's cost control, which has been another weak spot for some of the smaller television companies, although the quality of the company's programming remains high.

In contrast to the rest of the media sector, where share ratings are often astronomic, Grampian's A shares look positively undervalued at 13 times historic earnings. But the lack of any bid premium counts for a lot.



Housebuilders

HOUSEBUILDERS can be crudely divided into two camps: the volume merchants such as Beazer Homes, Wimpey and Barratt, which aggressively bought land over the past 18 months, and smaller groups such as Wilson (Connolly) or Berkeley Group, which have been more restrained.

This year will decide which group had the correct strategy. Just over a year ago, the omens looked favourable for the expansionists. The climate encouraged a rush to buy plots, leading to an escalation in land prices.

But the mood has rapidly changed: this week the Nationwide Building Society reported a 17 per cent fall in house sales, compared with the first quarter of last year, and only a slight fall in the repossession figures. Yesterday, Wilson (Connolly) added to the gloom, saying first-quarter sales were down.

The volume merchants have in most cases reported flat or increased sales but those companies, working from more sites, need to run faster in order to stand still. Unless the market perks up in the second half, housebuilders face a poor year with higher prices for materials adding to the cost of running more sites. Those who have been chasing volume could now be heading for a margin squeeze.

Reuters

ALWAYS keen to be quick off the mark with news, Reuters flagged that new orders were peaking last summer and in February said that growth in 1995 would not match 1994, when sales grew by 23 per cent. However, the Reuters train continued its ride into the first quarter of this year with a revenue boost of 22 per cent. Nevertheless, Peter Job reissued his growth warning and the shares took a tumble.

The problem is the effect of acquisitions made in March last year. These had no effect on revenues in the first quarter of 1994 but boosted revenue growth this time by an extra 6 per cent. That effect will fall out of the picture in the second quarter. The same is true of the strong installations business, seen last summer, in information and transaction products, which only began to generate revenues in the second half.

Investors taking a longer term view may wonder whether the information company is pausing to catch its breath or entering a slower growth phase. Recent efforts to expand its media interests are an attempt to build up a division which delivered a meagre 5 per cent growth in sales in the first quarter. The "cost-unconscious" financial services sector has made Reuters rich, but banks are sacking, not hiring, these days and Reuters may lose a point or two on its star rating, as a result.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	969-967	Jul	1084-1082
Jul	998-997	Sep	1098-1095
Sep	1016-1015	Dec	1110-1105
Dec	1042-1041	Mar	1124-1120
Mar	1062-1061		
May	1074-1073		Volume: 15013

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	3090-3083	Jan	3065-3059
Jul	3120-3115	Mar	3055-3039
Sep	3096-3094	May	3045-3019
Nov	3079-3075		Volume: 5723

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	297.0-94.0
Spot: 357.3		May	296.9-93.0
Aug	333.5-73.0	Aug	297.4-92.5
Oct	303.5-02.5	Oct	294.4-79.0
Dec	297.5-95.5		Volume: 711

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 27

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	92.84	119.21	122.40
+/-	+0.97	-13.06	-2.26
Eng/Wales	92.79	119.18	92.78
+/-	-0.99	-12.89	-2.13
(%)	+4.0	-29.0	-15.0
Scotland	100.11	119.49	124.54
+/-	+10.14	-14.20	-2.97
(%)	+7.0	-48.0	+8.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.95	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.90	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Jul)	18.40	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.20	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	19.95	-0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 201 (+2)	O: 203 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	161 (-1)	163 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H May	159 (-1)	161 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Jun	158 (n/c)	160 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	107 (+1)	109 (+1)
Naphtha	173 (+1)	175 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	159.00-58.25	Aug	157.50-57.75
Jun	157.00-57.25	Sep	158.75-59.25
Jul	156.50-56.75		Vol 18981

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	18.93-18.95	Sep	17.81-17.85
Jul	18.41-18.45	Oct	17.65-17.67
Aug	18.05-18.09		Vol. 44067

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	118.75	May	112.10
Jul	120.15	Sep	103.35
Sep	104.45	Nov	104.65
Nov	105.40	Jan	106.75
Jan	107.40	Mar	108.75
Volume: 384		Volume: 10	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	302.0	307.0
Apr	126.0	123.5
May	unq	140.0
		Volume: 41

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jun 116.00-116.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
May 95	2355	2320	2329
Jun 95	2245	2215	2220
Jul 95	2060	2040	2038
Oct 95	1995	1958	1956

Vol: 271 lots Open Interest: 4725

Index 2347 +14

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2830.0-2832.0	2780.0-2781.0	1554175
Lead ($/tonne)	617.50-618.50	629.00-630.00	164775
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1103.0-1104.0	1119.5-1120.5	701175
Tin ($/tonne)	5970.0-5975.0	5970.0-5975.0	25464
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1957.5-1958.0	1832.5-1833.5	2117900
Nickel ($/tonne)	7345.0-7350.0	7465.0-7470.0	63016

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
All'd Dom.	500	51½	55	61	5	9½	15½
(*543)	550	15	24½	32½	26	30½	38
Argyll	280	15	20½	25	11½	15½	19
(*296)	300	6	12	16½	24½	27½	30½
ASDA	80	6	7½	9	3½	4½	6
(*81)	90	2	3½	4½	10	10½	11½
Boots	500	21	32	36	17	21	24½
(*507)	550	5½	12	16½	52½	54	56
Br Airways	390	22½	30½	38	14½	20	24
(*396½)	420	9½	17	24½	33	37	40½
BP	420	33½	42	48½	5	10	12½
(*447½)	460	11	19	27	23	28	30½
Br Steel	160	13½	16	19	4	7	9
(*169)	180	3½	7	10	15½	18	19½
C & W	390	24	34½	40½	13½	18	22
(*401)	420	10½	20½	26½	30½	34½	38
CU	550	30	41½	52½	17	28	33
(*557½)	600	10	19½	30½	47½	58	61½
ICI	750	32½	45½	61	20	33	37
(*754)	800	12	23½	38	51	62½	66
Kingfisher	420	40	49½	57½	7½	14	18
(*448)	460	16	26½	36	24	31½	36
Land Sec	550	17½	24½	29½	24	27½	30
(*553½)	600	2½	8	11½	65	66	67
M & S	390	33½	40½	46½	4	9	11
(*419½)	420	13	22	29	16	21½	23
Nat West	500	52½	60½	70	6	13½	16½
(*540½)	550	20½	31	41½	24	34½	38
Sainsbury	420	23½	33	40	9½	13	17
(*437)	460	5½	14	21	33½	35½	39
Shell	700	49½	62	69	6	13	16½
(*735½)	750	17½	31	40½	24½	34	38
SmKl Bch	460	40	48½	57	6½	13	17
(*491)	500	16½	25½	35	23	30½	35
Storehse	240	13½	20	24	8½	11	12½
(*245½)	260	4½	10½	14½	20½	22	23½
Trafalgar	50	8	10	11½	1½	3	4
(*56)	60	3	5	6½	6	7½	9
Unilever	1200	57½	80½	101½	18½	28½	35
(*1226½)	1250	29½	58	74	42	51½	56½
Zeneca	900	40½	57	76	26½	39½	49
(*901½)	950	18½	34½	53	55½	67½	76
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met.	390	13½	23	31	3½	12½	16½
(*399½)	420	1½	9	16½	21½	29½	33
Ladbroke	160	19½	24½	26½	0	2½	4
(*179)	180	3	11	14	4	9½	12
Utd Bisc	330	20½	31½	38½	1½	7½	12½
(*346½)	360	3	15	23	14½	21	27

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
BAA	460	25½	35	42	10½	15	19½
(*473½)	500	7½	15½	23	34½	39	41
Thames W	460	35	37	41	12	17½	23
(*485)	500	9½	16½	22	36	39½	44½
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	460	14½	29	35½	6½	20½	25½
(*468½)	500	1	11½	18	32½	45	48½
BTR	300	29	35½	39½	0	3	7
(*328)	330	5	15	20½	7	13	19
Br Aero	531	14½	—	—	11½	—	—
(*535)	583	1½	—	—	46	—	—
Br Telecm	360	29½	36	39	0	6	9½
(*388½)	390	5	16	20½	7	19½	22½
Cadbury	447	8	24½	—	7½	15	—
(*447)	[illegible]	0	9	—	39	41	—
Guinness	460	15	30	37½	4½	13	19
(*469½)	500	1	11½	18½	31	35½	39½
GEC	300	8½	15½	19½	3	12½	15
(*304½)	330	0	4	7½	25½	33½	34½
Hanson	220	17½	20	22½	0	3½	6
(*236½)	240	2	9	12	6	11½	15½
LASMO	160	9½	15½	20	1½	5	7
(*167½)	180	1	6	11	13	16	17½
Lucas	180	13	20	24	1	5½	9
(*191½)	200	2	7½	14	10	14½	19½
Pilkington	160	19	21	24½	0	2½	4
(*178½)	180	2½	8	12½	4	10	12
Prudential	300	16	26	31	1½	6	10½
(*314)	330	1½	10½	15½	17	20½	25½
Redland	390	29½	34½	41½	3	11	17
(*419½)	420	5	18½	26	18	25	31½
R-Royce	160	12½	19	21	1	4	7
(*171)	180	2	8½	11	10	13½	16½
Tesco	260	20½	28	32	0½	3½	6½
(*279½)	280	5	15	20	5½	10½	14
Vodafone	180	15½	22½	26½	0½	4½	7½
(*194)	200	3½	9½	16	8	14	16½
Williams	330	9½	19½	23	5½	11	16½
(*332)	360	1	7	10½	29	30	34½

FT-SE INDEX (*3214)

	3100	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350
Calls						
May	125	82½	45	21	8½	3
Jun	138½	102	72	46	27½	15
Jul	165	129½	100	74½	52½	37
Aug	181	147½	118	92	69½	51½
Dec	246	—	185	—	136	—
Puts						
May	7	14	28½	57	94½	140½
Jun	19	32½	52	77	109½	149
Jul	36	50½	70	95½	125	160½
Aug	46	62½	82½	107½	136½	169
Dec	85	—	122½	—	174	—

Series		Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
Abby Nat.	460	19	29½	38	10	19	22
(*465)	500	4½	12½	19½	36	42½	45
Amstrad	175	26	—	—	1	—	—
(*198½)	200	9	15½	20½	8½	12½	15
Barclays	600	49	62	73	5	15	20½
(*638½)	650	17	32½	44	23½	36½	42½
Blue Circ	280	17	26	31	6½	12	16
(*288½)	300	7½	15½	21½	16½	22	26
Br Gas	300	6	12½	17	12	15	19½
(*300½)	330	0½	3½	7	39	39½	41
Dixons	240	11	15	19½	8½	16	17
(*242)	260	3½	7	11	21½	28½	29
Forte	220	13½	19½	23	3	6	8½
(*228)	240	3½	9½	13	14	16	18½
Hillsdown	180	8	14	18½	4	7	9
(*183½)	200	1	5	9	17	18½	20
Lonrho	160	9½	13½	18½	4	8	9½
(*165)	180	2½	6	9½	16	19½	20½
Sears	100	5½	8	9½	2½	4	5
(*104½)	110	1	3½	5	9	10	10½
Thrn EMI	1100	56	71	84	10	31½	39
(*1135½)	1150	26	43½	57½	30½	57	64½
Tomkins	220	18	22	26½	2½	8	10
(*234)	240	6	11½	16	11	18	20
TSB	240	17½	23½	27½	6	11½	13
(*249)	260	7½	14	18	16	22	23½
Wellcome	1000	70½	70½	—	0	1½	—
(*1069)	1050	29½	33	—	2½	10½	—
Series		Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo	700	55½	69½	79	12½	28	34½
(*734)	750	26½	41	52½	34	52½	59
HSBC	700	62	80½	95½	19½	33½	41½
(*733½)	750	34½	54	70	41½	59½	65
Reuter	460	29½	42	51½	12½	18½	23
(*472)	500	11	23	32	34½	40	43½
Series		May	Jul	Oct	May	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins.	300	9	17½	24	5½	12½	18½
(*302½)	330	0½	5½	11½	27½	30½	36
Series		Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Fisons	180	13½	20½	25½	7	11	14
(*187)	200	5½	11½	16½	19	22½	25
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Eastern Gp	600	36	54½	67	2	22	30½
(*634½)	650	7½	26½	42½	21½	48½	56½
Series		Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Natl Pwr	420	36½	40½	48	5	10	12½
(*452½)	460	9½	18	27	24	29	31½
Scot Pwr	330	17	23½	29	7½	16	19
(*357½)	360	5	10	16	25	34	36½

April 28, 1995 Tot: 21564 Call: 10700 Put: 10864 FT-SE Call: 2380 Put: 1822

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 73190	Jun 95	3231.0	3246.0	3210.0	3221.0	10325
	Sep 95	3263.0	3263.0	3263.0	3244.0	52
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 4240	Jun 95	3550.0	3552.0	3550.0	3551.0	250
	Sep 95					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 394893	Jun 95	92.75	92.79	92.74	92.77	18874
	Sep 95	92.31	92.35	92.26	92.29	18621
	Dec 95	92.00	92.05	91.96	92.00	8365
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 1169	Jun 95				93.70	0
	Sep 95	93.56	93.56	93.55	93.50	35
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 683521	Jun 95	95.40	95.42	95.39	95.40	12981
	Sep 95	95.26	95.30	95.20	95.23	25339
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 86656	Jun 95	103-28	104-04	103-06	103-16	53106
	Sep 95	103-22	103-22	102-31	103-04	303
Japanese Govnt Bond	Jun 95	116.43	116.45	116.13	116.25	3771
	Sep 95	115.53	115.53	115.28	115.37	1125
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 181530	Jun 95	92.86	93.17	92.77	92.99	125818
	Sep 95	92.50	92.50	92.34	92.27	216
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 15851	Jun 95	93.58	93.61	93.57	93.58	1720
	Sep 95	93.47	93.50	93.47	93.48	695
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 42114	Jun 95	96.50	96.59	96.50	96.55	4253
	Sep 95	96.38	96.47	96.38	96.43	2066
Italian Govnt Bond Previous open interest: 42770	Jun 95	94.69	95.86	94.67	95.70	43654
	Sep 95	94.10	94.30	94.10	95.05	57

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: [illegible] Low [illegible] Week fixed: [illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open [illegible], close [illegible]

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	6.04	n/a	6.10	6.22	6.55
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applctns: £4,514m allotted: £1100m: Bids: £98.350% received: 85%; Last week: £98.430% received: 42%; Avge rate: £6.6146% last wk £6.2810%: Next week: £1100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $389.50-389.90 Close: $388.20-388.70 High: $390.30-390.80 Low: $386.25-386.75 AM: $389.50 PM: $389.75

Krugerrand: $391.00-393.00 (£243.00-245.00)

Platinum: $449.25 (£278.45) Silver: $5.85 (£3.635) Palladium: $163.00 (£101.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 28	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4896-2.4999	2.4959-2.4991	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	45.71-45.94	45.84-45.94	8-5pr	22-15pr
Copenhagen	8.7450-8.7770	8.7490-8.7640	[illegible]ds	[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9850-0.9885	0.9855-0.9881	2pr-1ds	4pr-par
Frankfurt	2.2211-2.2321	2.2290-2.2321	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	235.23-236.54	235.90-236.54	67-77ds	205-230ds
Madrid	197.81-198.52	197.81-198.11	39-48ds	118-133ds
Milan	2699.80-2734.40	2699.80-2709.60	9-11ds	25-28ds
Montreal	2.1855-2.2048	2.1855-2.1886	0.19-0.31ds	0.39-0.52ds
New York	1.6080-1.6164	1.6080-1.6090	0.08-0.05pr	0.30-0.25pr
Oslo	9.9960-10.0450	10.0220-10.0370	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	7.8670-7.9320	7.9100-7.9240	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Stockholm	11.6440-11.7510	11.6820-11.7060	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Tokyo	135.03-135.63	135.03-135.29	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	15.63-15.71	15.67-15.71	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	1.8305-1.8442	1.8411-1.8440	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3740-1.3749
Austria	9.7315-9.7365
Belgium (Com)	28.46-28.48
Canada	1.3604-1.3609
Denmark	5.4355-5.4405
France	4.9092-4.9107
Germany	1.3835-1.3845
Hong Kong	7.7385-7.7395
Ireland	1.6311-1.6331
Italy	1681.00-1682.00
Japan	84.05-84.15
Malaysia	2.4680-2.4690
Netherlands	1.5503-1.5508
Norway	6.2280-6.2330
Portugal	146.58-146.68
Singapore	1.3925-1.3935
Spain	122.92-123.02
Sweden	7.2598-7.2698
Switzerland	1.1438-1.1448

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6075-1.6102
Australia dollar	2.2118-2.2143
Bahrain dinar	0.6035-0.6155
Brazil real*	1.4789-1.4831
China yuan	12.75 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.70-0.71
Finland markka	6.8100-6.9260
Greece drachma	359.50-366.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.4512-12.4606
India rupee	50.33-51.29
Indonesia rupiah	3578.00-3646.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.468-0.478
Malaysia ringgit	3.9743-3.9784
New Zealand dollar	2.3901-2.3951
Pakistan rupee	49.52 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.005-6.131
Singapore dollar	2.2405-2.2435
S Africa rand (com)	5.8197-5.8366
U A E dirham	5.880-6.004

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	223	Legal & Gn	841
ASDA Gp	16,000	Lloyds Bk	1,600
Abbey Natl	3,200	MEPC	893
Alld Dom	2,200	Marks Spr	3,000
Argyll Gp	2,400	NatWst Bk	2,500
Arjo Wiggn	969	Nat Power	785
AB Foods	345	Nth Wst W	2,500
BAA	2,600	P & O	938
BAT Inds	3,700	Pearson	645
BOC	1,100	PowerGen	944
BP	6,000	Prudential	3,200
BTR	6,000	RMC	1,400
BT	8,400	RTZ	3,100
Bk of Scot	1,300	Rank Org	1,700
Barclays	2,900	Reckitt Col	511
Bass	1,000	Redland	5,100
Blue Circle	2,500	Reed Intl	2,200
Boots	1,100	Rentokil	4,600
Bowater	1,000	Reuters	7,600
Brit Aero	2,000	Rolls Royce	3,800
Brit Airwys	2,500	Ryl Ins	1,200
Brit Gas	4,100	Ryl Bk Scot	397
Brit Steel	35,000	Sainsbury	1,900
Burmah Cstl	446	Schroders	105
Cable Wire	2,800	Scot & New	1,300
Cadbury	3,900	Scot Power	2,100
Caradon	695	Sears	29,000
Carlton Cms	736	Svrn Trent	227
Cm Union	1,000	Shell Trans	3,500
Courtaulds	862	Siebe	204
De La Rue	5,200	SmKl Bch	5,300
Eastern Elec	375	Smith Nph	860
Enterpr Oil	1,600	Sthern Elec	203
Forte	9,900	Std Chartd	944
GKN	581	Sun Allnce	638
GRE	621	TI Gp	549
GUS	1,700	TSB	3,000
Gen Acc	1,600	Tate & Lyle	1,800
Gen Elec	9,800	Tesco	5,900
Glaxo	3,900	Thames W	1,300
Granada	2,900	Thrn EMI	3,700
Grand Met	3,600	Tomkins	2,600
Guinness	2,600	Unilever	717
HSBC	2,000	Utd Bisc	499
Hanson	9,100	Vodafone	6,200
ICI	3,900	Warburg	1,800
Inchcape	2,200	Whitbread	1,700
Kingfisher	1,100	Wllms Hld	2,300
Ladbroke	2,100	Wolseley	1,400
Land Secs	1,100	Zeneca	1,200

[illegible]

	Apr 28 midday	Apr 27 close
AMP Inc	47[illegible]	43[illegible]
AMR Corp	67[illegible]	67[illegible]
AT & T	50[illegible]	50[illegible]
Abbott Labs	38[illegible]	39
Advanced Micro	35[illegible]	36[illegible]
Aetna Life	57[illegible]	57[illegible]
Ahmanson (HF)	21	21
Air Prod & Chem	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Albertsons	31[illegible]	30[illegible]
Alcan Aluminum	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Alco Standard	70[illegible]	70[illegible]
Allied Signal	39[illegible]	40
Alum Co of Am	44[illegible]	43[illegible]
Amax Gold Inc	5[illegible]	5[illegible]
Amerada Hess	50[illegible]	51[illegible]
Amer Brands	40[illegible]	40[illegible]
Amer El Power	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
Amer Express	34[illegible]	34[illegible]
Amer Genl Corp	32[illegible]	33
Amer Home Pr	76[illegible]	76[illegible]
Amer Intl	106[illegible]	107[illegible]
Amer Stores	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Ameritech	44[illegible]	44
Amoco	65[illegible]	65[illegible]
Anheuser-Busch	57[illegible]	57[illegible]
Apple Computer	37[illegible]	37[illegible]
Archer Daniels	18[illegible]	18[illegible]
Armco	7	7
Armstrong Wrld	45[illegible]	45
Asarco	27	26[illegible]
Ashland Oil	36[illegible]	37
Atl Richfield	114[illegible]	115[illegible]
Auto Data Pro	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Avery Dennison	40[illegible]	41[illegible]
Avon Products	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Baker Hughes	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Baltim Gas & El	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Banc One	[illegible]	29[illegible]
BankAmerica	49[illegible]	49[illegible]
Bank of NY	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
Bankers Tr NY	54[illegible]	54[illegible]
Barnett Banks	46[illegible]	46[illegible]
Bausch & Lomb	38[illegible]	39
Baxter Intl	34	32[illegible]
Bectn Dickson	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Bell Atlantic	54[illegible]	54[illegible]
Bell Industries	20	20[illegible]
BellSouth	60[illegible]	60[illegible]
Black & Decker	29[illegible]	30[illegible]
Block (H&R)	41[illegible]	41[illegible]
Boeing	55[illegible]	55[illegible]
Boise Cascade	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
Bristol Myrs Sq	64[illegible]	64[illegible]
Browning Ferris	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
Brunswick	20[illegible]	21
Burlington Nthn	59[illegible]	59[illegible]
CBS	63	61[illegible]
CNA Financial	77	76[illegible]
CPC Intl	58[illegible]	58[illegible]
CSX	79[illegible]	81[illegible]
Campbell Soup	50	50[illegible]
Can Pacific	15	14[illegible]
Cpt Cities ABC	84[illegible]	83[illegible]
Carolina Pwr	27[illegible]	28
Caterpillar	57	56[illegible]
Central & SW	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Champion Intl	45[illegible]	43[illegible]
Chase Manhat	43[illegible]	43[illegible]
Chemical Bk	41[illegible]	41[illegible]
Chevron Corp	46[illegible]	47[illegible]
Chrysler	42[illegible]	41[illegible]
Chubb Corp	80[illegible]	80[illegible]
Cigna Corp	73	73[illegible]
Citicorp	46[illegible]	47[illegible]
Clorox	58[illegible]	57[illegible]
Coastal Corp	29[illegible]	29
Coca Cola	57[illegible]	58
Colgate-Palmolive	69[illegible]	70
Columbia Gas	29	29[illegible]
Compaq Comp	37[illegible]	38[illegible]
Comp Ass Intl	63[illegible]	64
Conagra	33	33[illegible]
Conrail	54	54[illegible]
Cons Edison	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Cons Nat Gas	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Cooper Inds	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Corning Inc	32[illegible]	36[illegible]
Crown Cork	42[illegible]	42[illegible]
Dana Corp	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Dayton Hudson	66[illegible]	66[illegible]
Deere	82[illegible]	83[illegible]
Delta Air Lines	64[illegible]	64[illegible]
Deluxe Corp	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Detroit Edison	28[illegible]	28[illegible]
Digital Equip	45[illegible]	46[illegible]
Dillard Dept St	25[illegible]	26[illegible]
Disney (Walt)	55[illegible]	56[illegible]
Dominion Res	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Donnelley (RR)	33[illegible]	34[illegible]
Dover Corp	64[illegible]	65[illegible]
Dow Chemical	70[illegible]	70[illegible]
Dow Jones	34[illegible]	34[illegible]
Dresser	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
Duke Power	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Dun & Bradstreet	51[illegible]	52
Du Pont	65[illegible]	66[illegible]
Eastman Kodak	57[illegible]	57[illegible]
Eaton Corp	57[illegible]	58[illegible]
Emerson Elec	67[illegible]	67[illegible]
Engelhard Corp	37[illegible]	37[illegible]

	Apr 28 midday	Apr 27 close
Enron Corp	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
Entergy	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
Ethyl Corp	10[illegible]	10[illegible]
Exxon	69	69[illegible]
FMC Corp	61[illegible]	61[illegible]
FPL Group	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Federal Express	67[illegible]	67[illegible]
Fed Nat Mtge	87[illegible]	87[illegible]
First Chicago	54[illegible]	55[illegible]
First Interstate	76[illegible]	77[illegible]
First Union Rlty	7[illegible]	7[illegible]
Fleet Finl Grp	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
Fluor Corp	51[illegible]	51
Ford Motor	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
GTE Corp	33[illegible]	33[illegible]
Gannett	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
Gap Inc Del	32	31[illegible]
Gen Dynamics	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Gen Electric	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
Gen Mills	61[illegible]	62
Gen Motors	44[illegible]	43[illegible]
Gen Reinsurance	127[illegible]	127[illegible]
Gen Signal	37	37[illegible]
Genuine Parts	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Georgia Pac	78[illegible]	78[illegible]
Gillette	81[illegible]	82[illegible]
Glaxo ADR	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
Goodrich (BF)	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Goodyear Tire	37[illegible]	38
Grace (WR)	53[illegible]	53[illegible]
Grt Atl Pac Tea	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Great Wstn Fin	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
Halliburton	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Harcourt General	40[illegible]	40[illegible]
Heinz (HJ)	41[illegible]	42
Hercules	49[illegible]	48[illegible]
Hershey Foods	52[illegible]	53[illegible]
Hewlett Packard	64[illegible]	66[illegible]
Hilton Hotels	75[illegible]	76[illegible]
Home Depot	41[illegible]	42[illegible]
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Honeywell	38[illegible]	39
Household Intl	47	47[illegible]
Houston Inds	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Humana	19[illegible]	19[illegible]
ITT Corp	104[illegible]	104[illegible]
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Illinova	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
INCO	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Ingersoll Rand	35[illegible]	35
Inland Steel	26[illegible]	26[illegible]
Intel Corp	102[illegible]	101[illegible]
IBM	94[illegible]	95[illegible]
Intl Flav & Fr	51	51[illegible]
Intl Paper	75[illegible]	75[illegible]
James River Va	26[illegible]	27[illegible]
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Kellogg	62[illegible]	62[illegible]
Kerr-McGee	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Kimberly-Clark	56[illegible]	57
Kmart	13[illegible]	13[illegible]
Knight-Ridder	54[illegible]	54[illegible]
Lilly (Eli)	73[illegible]	72[illegible]
Limited Inc	21[illegible]	21[illegible]
LIN Brdcstng	[illegible]	[illegible]
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Liz Claiborne	18[illegible]	18[illegible]
Lockheed Martin	57[illegible]	58
Louisiana Pac	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
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May Dept St	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Maytag Corp	17[illegible]	17
McDonalds	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
McDonnell D	61[illegible]	62[illegible]
McGraw Hill	74[illegible]	75
Mead Corp	51[illegible]	51[illegible]
Medtronic	73[illegible]	74[illegible]
Mellon Bk	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Melville Corp	34[illegible]	34[illegible]
Merck Inc	42[illegible]	42[illegible]
Merrill Lynch	45[illegible]	45[illegible]
Minnesota Mine	59[illegible]	60
Mobil Corp	93[illegible]	94[illegible]
Monsanto	83[illegible]	84[illegible]
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Motorola Inc	57	57[illegible]
Natl Semi	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Natl Service Ind	27[illegible]	28
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NY Times A	22[illegible]	22[illegible]
Newmont Mng	42[illegible]	43
Niag Mohawk	13[illegible]	13[illegible]
Nike B	76[illegible]	75[illegible]
NL Industries	14[illegible]	14[illegible]
Noram Energy	6	6
Nordstrom	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
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Nthn States Pwr	43[illegible]	44[illegible]
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Nynex Corp	40[illegible]	40[illegible]
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Ohio Edison	20[illegible]	20[illegible]
Oracle Systems	30[illegible]	31[illegible]
Oryx Energy Co	13[illegible]	13[illegible]
Owens Corning	36[illegible]	36[illegible]

	Apr 28 midday	Apr 27 close
PPG Industries	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
PNC Bank	25	25[illegible]
Paccar Inc	45[illegible]	44[illegible]
Pacificorp	18[illegible]	18[illegible]
Pac Enterprises	24[illegible]	24[illegible]
Pac Gas & Elect	26[illegible]	27
Pac Telesis	30[illegible]	30[illegible]
Pall Corp	23[illegible]	21[illegible]
Panhandle East	23[illegible]	24
Parker Hannifin	52	52[illegible]
Peco Energy	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Penney (JC)	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Pennzoil	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Pepsico	41[illegible]	41[illegible]
Pfizer	85[illegible]	85[illegible]
Phelps Dodge	55[illegible]	55
Philip Morris	67[illegible]	67[illegible]
Phillips Pet.	34[illegible]	35
Pitney Bowes	37[illegible]	36[illegible]
Polaroid	34	33[illegible]
PriceCostco	14[illegible]	14[illegible]
Procter & Gmbl	69[illegible]	68[illegible]
Providian	34	35
Pub Serv E & G	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Quaker Oats	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Ralston Purina	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
Raychem Corp	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Raytheon	72	71[illegible]
Reebok Intl	37[illegible]	34[illegible]
Reynolds Metals	48[illegible]	48[illegible]
Roadway Srvcs	47[illegible]	47[illegible]
Rockwell Intl	43[illegible]	44[illegible]
Rohm & Haas	57[illegible]	58[illegible]
Royal Dutch	122[illegible]	123[illegible]
Rubbermaid	29[illegible]	28[illegible]
Safeco Corp	56[illegible]	56[illegible]
St Paul's Cos	48	48[illegible]
Salomon Inc	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Santa Fe Pac	23[illegible]	13
Sara Lee Corp	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
Scecorp	16[illegible]	16[illegible]
Schering Plough	75[illegible]	75[illegible]
Schlumberger	63[illegible]	63[illegible]
Scott Paper	88[illegible]	87[illegible]
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Shell Trans	71	71[illegible]
Sherwin Wilms	35[illegible]	35[illegible]
Skyline Corp	17[illegible]	18
Snap-On-Tools	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Southern Co	20[illegible]	20[illegible]
Sthwestern Bell	44[illegible]	44
Sprint Corp	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
Stanley Works	40	40[illegible]
Sun Company	29[illegible]	30[illegible]
Sun Microsys	39[illegible]	39[illegible]
Suntrust	53[illegible]	54
Supervalu	29[illegible]	28[illegible]
Sysco Corp	27[illegible]	27[illegible]
TRW Inc	73[illegible]	72[illegible]
TCC Inds	2[illegible]	2[illegible]
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Teledyne	24[illegible]	25[illegible]
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Tenet Healthcare	16[illegible]	16[illegible]
Tenneco	45[illegible]	46[illegible]
Texaco	67[illegible]	67[illegible]
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Texas Utilities	32[illegible]	32[illegible]
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Time Warner	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
Times-Mirror A	18	18[illegible]
Timken	40[illegible]	39[illegible]
Torchmark	38[illegible]	38[illegible]
Toys R Us	25[illegible]	25[illegible]
Transamerica	56[illegible]	57[illegible]
Travelers	41[illegible]	41[illegible]
Tribune	58[illegible]	59
Tyco Labs	52[illegible]	52[illegible]
UST Inc	28[illegible]	29[illegible]
UAL	119	117[illegible]
USX Marathon	18[illegible]	18[illegible]
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Unilever NV	134	134[illegible]
Union Camp	50[illegible]	49[illegible]
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Union Pacific	53[illegible]	54[illegible]
Unisys Corp	10[illegible]	10[illegible]
USAIR Group	7[illegible]	7[illegible]
USF&G Corp	14[illegible]	14[illegible]
US Life	38	38[illegible]
US West	41	40[illegible]
United Tech	73[illegible]	74[illegible]
Unocal Corp	28[illegible]	28
Upjohn	36[illegible]	36[illegible]
VF Corp	51	51[illegible]
WMX Tech	28[illegible]	27[illegible]
Wal-Mart Stores	23[illegible]	23[illegible]
Warner-Lambert	79[illegible]	77[illegible]
Wells Fargo	169[illegible]	167[illegible]
Westinghouse El	14[illegible]	14[illegible]
Weyerhaeuser	42[illegible]	41[illegible]
Whirlpool	54[illegible]	54[illegible]
Whitman	18[illegible]	18[illegible]
Winn Dixie	56[illegible]	55[illegible]
Woolworth	15[illegible]	15[illegible]
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	44[illegible]	44[illegible]
Xerox	122[illegible]	122[illegible]
Yellow Corp	17[illegible]	18[illegible]

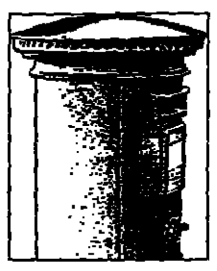
[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

LIFE PARTNERS 29
Divorced couples still shackled by pensions

WEEKEND MONEY

SAVERS' CHOICE 30
Postal accounts are increasing in popularity



End of the road for endowments?

Sara McConnell looks at what the future holds for borrowers in the wake of the OFT's report

Millions of borrowers with endowment mortgages will be spending the weekend worrying that they have been sold an expensive dud, after publication of the Office of Fair Trading's report highlighting the high costs of some endowment policies compared with repayments. Others will be having second thoughts before signing up. Some borrowers could find themselves as much as £10,000 worse off with an endowment than a repayment over the term of the mortgage, it says.

You may be be one of the lucky few with a low-cost, high-performing policy whose real returns stay comfortably above the mortgage rate until you come to pay off your loan. On top of this, you may never go through a bad time financially in the next 25 years and be well able to pay your monthly premiums without borrowing. With this combination of factors, you would be better off with an endowment than a repayment mortgage.

Unfortunately, as the OFT concedes, the scenario above is looking increasingly unlikely, especially if relatively low inflation and low investment returns continue. More people will be saddled with policies levying higher than average charges that further erode indifferent or poor performance. Many less well-off people will have to borrow to keep their policy going. They may even face higher premiums to avoid a shortfall when they come to pay off the loan.

The authors of the report, Alexander Clay and Partners, a firm of actuaries, make it clear that endowment policies can be the riskiest and most expensive way of covering a mortgage, even if you keep up payments regularly for the whole of the term of the policy.

According to Sir Bryan Carsberg, the OFT's Director-General, less well-off people who cannot count on always being able to pay the premiums on an endowment without borrowing should be sold a repayment mortgage.

Worryingly, 63 per cent of first-time buyers and 56 per cent of existing borrowers moving house took out endowment mortgages in the third quarter of last year, although figures from the Institute of Fiscal Studies show that more than half of families have less than £455 in savings, so would struggle to cover premiums if they could not work.

Sir Bryan conceded the high level of endowment sales pointed to mis-selling. The publication of the report is one result of the OFT's continuing concern that banks, building societies and other lenders are not compelled to give "best advice" on mortgage repayment methods. Consequently, they often recommend endowments, even where these are not suitable, because they pay the highest commission to the seller. The commission on a £50,000 endowment mortgage is typically £800 upfront.

Mortgages linked to unit trust Pep plans are significantly cheaper than both endowments and straight repayments in most cases, particularly as their charges are lower than those of most endowments.

Once you have been sold an endowment, you are locked in unless you want to lose money by cashing it in (see below). But even if you pay premiums throughout the whole term, you could end up seriously out of pocket if you choose the wrong company.

Charges, actual and assumed investment performance, mortgage rates, tax breaks, and the cost to you of financing your premiums if you get into financial difficulty are all factors that can add to the cost of an endowment. But £10,000 more over the term than a straight repayment mortgage? Yes, says the report, given a combination of the factors below. All figures assume a £50,000 mortgage.

Comment, page 27

MERCURY ARCHIVES

On the home front: endowment mortgages, like the Trojan horse, are not all that they appear to be

The OFT's advice to borrowers

Weigh up certainty and risk

- Keeping up payments on a straight repayment mortgage guarantees the repayment of your loan.
- Using an investment vehicle such as an endowment or a Pep unit trust will involve more risk, with the possibility of either a shortfall in meeting your loan, or an increase in premiums — or, on the other hand, a welcome surplus.
- With-profits endowments (including unitised with-profits) offer a safety net against stock market fluctuations, while unit-linked endowments and Pep unit trusts are more volatile.

Consider charges and surrender penalties

- You can never tell whether you might have to cash in an endowment policy early; if you do, the overall costs would generally be higher than if you had used straight repayment.
- Charges vary considerably. The level of charges may well determine whether a particular endowment will involve more, or less, overall cost than straight repayment.

Look at the tax advantages

- Pep unit trusts are generally cheaper overall than straight repayment and endowments both on early surrender and at maturity, though a high-charging Pep unit trust might be more costly overall than a very low-charge endowment. Do not forget that tax laws may change.

Consider your ability to keep up payments

- Endowments often involve slightly higher monthly outgoings than straight repayments and Pep unit trusts; if you have difficulty in meeting these extra outgoings (and you have to borrow occasionally via overdraft or other costly means), the extra costs could be significant over the mortgage period.

When you move house

- Whatever your repayment method, adjust or increase your existing arrangements but keep to the original term if possible.
- Above all, avoid being "churned" — in other words, persuaded to surrender an existing endowment policy to take out another. The costs involved can be enormous.

HOW THE COSTS STACK UP

- **Charges.** If your insurer deducts 2 per cent from your return (above average) instead of 1.2 (below average), it will cost you between £600 and £1,600 over the term of the mortgage. If your insurer's costs are very high and it takes 2.7 per cent a year from your return in charges, it would cost you between £2,200 and £3,200.
- **Borrowing to finance mortgage costs.** If you have to borrow on your credit card or overdraw to avoid surrendering your policy or to cover other extra costs, rather than funding them from income or savings, it could cost you £1,300, if you borrow occasionally. If you borrow frequently, it could cost you up to £3,200 in accumulated borrowing costs.
- **Miras (tax relief on mortgage interest).** At the moment you are getting 15 per cent tax relief on the interest on the first £30,000 of the loan. But if this goes, an endowment will work out £300 to £500 more expensive in real terms.
- **Mortgage rates.** If rates rise by as little as 0.5 per cent, this will have a bigger effect on endowment mortgages. If you need to borrow heavily, it could cost you more than £1,000.
- **Investment growth assumptions.** Endowments are more expensive than repayments if the investment returns assumed when setting premiums are borne out by actual returns and this return is lower than your mortgage rate. Some companies assume a more generous rate of growth at the start which means lower premiums but can mean a poorer overall return. The cost of financing extra endowment premiums could be as much as £1,900 over the term of the policy.

SURRENDER AND LOSE OUT

BORROWERS who cash in their endowments early can lose thousands of pounds, particularly in the first five years when most of their premiums will have gone to pay the life company's charges and the salesman's commission. But a massive 70 per cent of all endowment policies, including those linked to mortgages, are surrendered before they mature. Some companies levy higher penalties than others, however. Cashing in an endowment after five years from a company paying very low surrender values could cost you £1,817 in accumulated extra costs, including lost premiums and the cost of financing these compared with a straight repayment mortgage. You would still incur £600 in extra costs, even from a company paying average surrender values.

Only with a more generous than average company would you actually have saved £185 over a straight repayment. Unit trust Peps are much cheaper to cash in early. Even with a plan with a higher than average annual management charge of 2 per cent, you would have saved £275 over a straight repayment. If your Pep has a cheaper annual charge of 1 per cent, you would save £333 over a straight repayment after five years. Because surrender values on most endowments are so poor, the last thing you should do when you move house is allow yourself to be talked into cashing in one endowment and taking out another for another 25 years. This could cost you between £1,000 and £8,000 more than extending or adjusting a repayment mortgage.

The coming growth recession

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

ANTHONY HARRIS

The chances are that the brokers' circulars you read are still discussing a world of continued buoyant growth. This is pure moonshine, as the currency markets are trying to tell us. But readers of this column should be spared from shock, so it has an optimistic headline. Yes, optimistic. A growth recession, or soft landing as it is now fashionable to call it, is, in fact, the dream scenario: given continued mismanagement, usually a safe bet, things could easily turn out a good deal worse. It is time to brush up your storm drill.

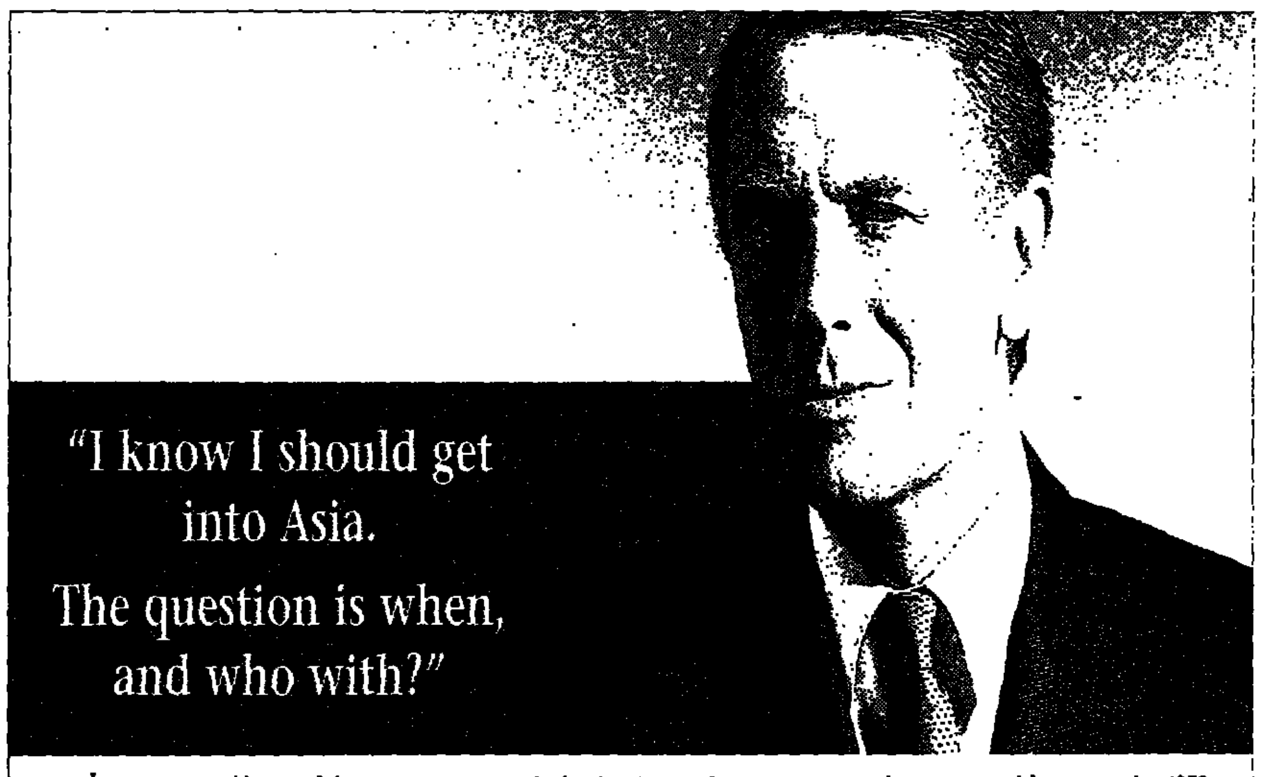
And why should you take fright at the noise kicked up by greedy speculators? Because although these people are unreasonable, trying to sustain the impossible returns they enjoyed by accident in the late 1980s, they are not irrational. The dollar is undervalued and the yen and mark overvalued because there are imbalances in the world, creating a glut of dollars and a shortage of the hardest currencies. The problem proved much too difficult for a set of very weak governments to address in Washington this week.

Japan and Germany called for a quick fix from the US; but the only one that would work would be to print more yen and marks, and only they can do that. The Americans called for long-term measures — which are mainly up to them. So it is unsteady as you go. The Americans will go on talking about deficit reduction; but without effective action, the dollar slide could turn into a real crisis, with an emergency rise in interest rates and a very hard landing. The Germans and the Japanese will go on cutting rates as their economies are squeezed; but in a flat economy, this will be what Keynes called pushing on a string. You can't make depressed businessmen borrow. Those brokers who are not in an optimistic trance have recently started pointing out that conditions are rather like those before the 1987 market crash — ill-temper about exchange rates, US Government funding problems, and high price-earnings ratios on Wall Street. This is a kind of evasion, though; it is easy to show that p/e ratios and the bond-equity gap were much more extreme eight years ago.

What is much more sinister is that the world situation is quite like that in 1931: low inflation, Anglo-Saxon devaluation, and high unemployment everywhere else. So the real question could be how far modern methods can avoid what followed then: a crash and a slump. We should certainly do better, but things would still be pretty nasty.

And what is the timescale on this storm warning? Not very long. To see why, note what the Mexican crisis has already done to US exports. The fact is that our own governments deserve no credit for the surprisingly high growth of 1993-94; it was due to booming demand for imports from the developing world. But since Mexico, nearly all of them are tightening policy to reduce their deficits, as, of course, are virtually all the developed economies apart from Germany and Japan. That is a lot of deflation, and it is already beginning to work. A market strategy based on official forecasts of continued buoyant growth, even for the second half of this year, could lose a lot of money.

Sell everything, then? Hardly. The wise investor should always treat all forecasts, including this one, as suspect. But switch defensively. Shorten US holdings; beware of stretched p/e ratios; prefer high yields; avoid overvalued currencies and any country with severe fiscal problems. And remember that a recession forcast can also be a profit opportunity: a recession always reduces real yields, to the benefit of bond holders, despite the exchange-rate risks. Check that list, and you will see that British stocks and gilts meet every test. In a global storm, there may be no place like home.



"I know I should get into Asia.
The question is when, and who with?"

It's a common dilemma. Like many people, you're aware that South East Asian economies have experienced rapid growth and provided some excellent returns. However, over the last year, stockmarkets in this region have been volatile, making investors nervous. On the upside, these falls have resulted in some particularly attractive valuations.

• The time to invest is now

In our view, now is the time to start benefiting from the potential of South East Asian stockmarkets. Not only are share prices well below previous highs, but Hong Kong's most important sector - property - is, in our view, looking more robust, and growth in company profits in South East Asia are currently some of the strongest in the world.

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• Impressive performance

The Fidelity South East Asia Trust could be just the route into Asia you're looking for. It offers you broad exposure to the region, and has grown by 497% since launch, against an index average of 207% and an average competitor fund performance of 421%.

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Managers count cost of rough ride in markets

Robert Miller looks into the 50 per cent drop in the sales of unit trusts

On the face of it, unit trust managers should be spending the weekend in one of two ways after news this week of a 50 per cent slump in unit trust sales in the year to March 31. They might opt for the darkened room. Alternatively, they could hold a series of crisis meetings on how to reassert themselves as the first port of call for investors looking for a higher return than they can achieve with savings accounts.

Figures released on Tuesday showed that net unit trust sales fell from £1.4 billion in March 1994 to £532 million in March 1995. This compared with the previous day's figures, published by the Building Societies Association, which revealed that its members attracted £1.6 billion worth of savers' money in the first quarter of 1995 alone, compared with a £1.3 billion outflow in the same period last year.

But, the fact is that the unit trust figures, published by the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, are not as bad as they seem. It is certainly true that £3.4 billion worth of personal equity plan sales — which, because of their tax breaks, are the most favoured marketing tool of unit trust managers — fell by 9 per cent. But the value of Pep funds under management, a useful annual fee earner for managers, have risen by £3.5 billion to £12.8 billion.

Unit trust managers can also point to the fact that net new investment, worth £8.3 billion after stripping out £11.3 billion of units cashed in, was down by less than £1 billion on 1993. The level of new investment from private "retail" investors into unit trusts actually rose in 1994 by just under £1 billion to £6 billion, a huge increase on 1992 when retail investors handed over just £156 million.

The number of people investing in unit trusts last year rose by more than one million, bringing the number of unitholder accounts to 6.1 million, although nowadays most investors usually have more than just one unit trust, which distorts the real number of people who are signing up.

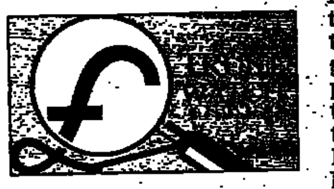
Global equity and bond markets had a volatile year in 1994 and most unit trust investors are nursing losses for last year. The job of a unit trust manager, however, is to limit those losses to less than the average of other like-minded unit trusts. That is why the latest figures from Autif convey a similar message to fund managers and investors alike — namely that, with 162 companies offering 1,559 unit trusts covering 24 sectors, there is a lot of choice. Bad managers who consistently under-perform deserve to be given short shrift in the future. On the other hand, the good ones should expect to build up a loyal following.

Too often, investors, or their advisers, put all their energies into selecting the right sector, but the wrong manager. In future, it will become even more important to check the background of a particular trust. Who is the manager? How long have they been running the trust? Have they consistently managed to match or even beat the average performance of similar trusts in the same category? Being the top performer over one period, only to plunge down the rankings in the next, is not a happy medium.

Philip Warland, director general of Autif, accepts that many investors are worried about investing in equities. But he says: "Sooner or later, you have to review your investment position. If the bulk of your money is in a deposit account, you ought to be thinking of putting a bit more into equities. Instead of a lump sum, your could always drip feed your money into the stock market through a regular savings scheme.

"Many consider that after a UK fund, their next move should be into the North American market, but the caveat here is that the shares are probably overpriced at the moment — although the dollar could turn round soon to give a reasonable return in sterling adjusted terms. A sensible compromise is to pick a well balanced international fund."

The North American market: what's gone up could land with a bump



HOW THE FIGURES ADDED UP

	Mar 95 £	Mar 94 £
Total fund value	91.5bn	95.5bn
Pep fund value	12.8bn	9.3bn
Accounts	6.3m	5.8m
Gross sales	1,764m	2,650m
Repurchases	1,232m	1,262m
Total net sales	532m	1,388m
Net retail sales	316m	973m
Net institutional	217m	415m

Source: Autif

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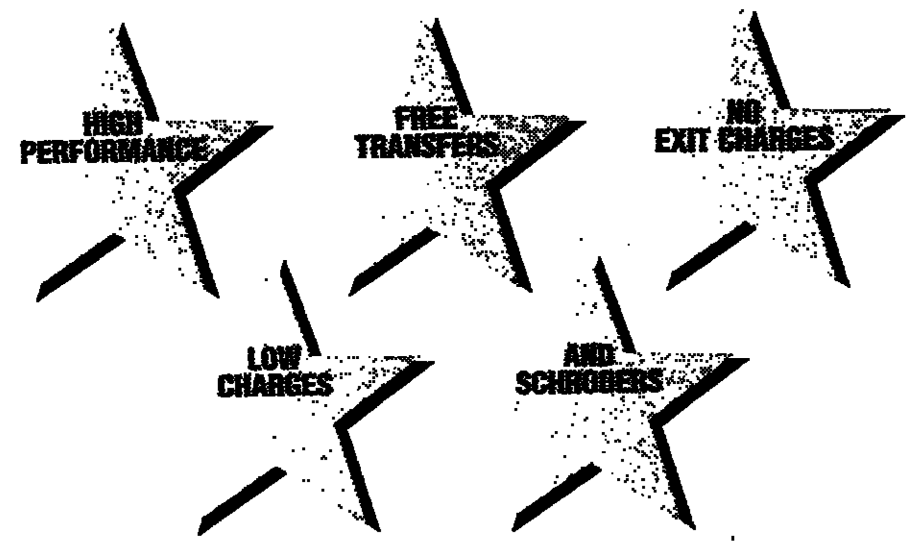

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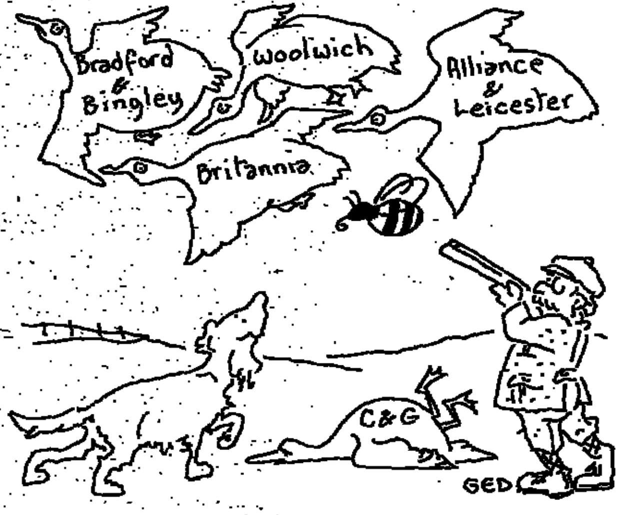
Jean Eaglesham points to a better bet than the lottery

Best targets in building society duck-shoot



The National Lottery may bring fortune to a favoured few, but betting on building societies offers much better odds. A minimum £100 — returned, with interest if the bet does not come off — buys the chance of a free handout in cash or shares if the society proves to be the next in line to merge or float on the stock market.

In the seemingly unlikely event that National & Provincial decides to accept Abbey National's current overtures, it is estimated that N&P's savers will profit to the tune of £650 each. Ten million Halifax and Leeds members stand to get shares worth £600 or more if the merged group is floated on the stock market in *1997. And almost a million Cheltenham & Gloucester members* will get cheques of up to £13,500 this summer after the Lloyds takeover.

Merger mania has hit the sector with a vengeance. As one analyst said: "It's a duck-shoot out there." It is definitely *not too late for investors to* take a punt on who will be next. The tricky part is deciding which one to go for.

Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS, the stockbroker, says that N&P was number one on his takeover hit-list, even before Abbey National made its declaration *of intent* this week. *Should* Abbey's approach be rejected, N&P still has to be a strong candidate for a merger or takeover. Anyone opening an account with the society now will not necessarily miss the boat, even if the Abbey deal goes ahead — although much depends on how the horrendously complicated rules on bonus payments are applied.

"Who knows if it is too late to open an account?," says an N&P spokesman, honestly, if somewhat unhelpfully.

Mr Thomas's other top targets are the **Britannia**, the eighth largest society, and, to a slightly lesser extent, **Bradford & Bingley**, *seventh* in the pecking order. Like N&P, the ninth largest, these are "too big to be small and too small to be big", he says. What he means is that they lack the clout to compete on personal banking with the likes of the Halifax, but they are too big to be successful regional niche players.

Another analyst, Simon Samuels, of Smith New Court, tips the third and fourth largest societies, the **Woolwich** and the **Alliance & Leicester**. The Woolwich, *previously a staunch defender of* mutuality — ownership by the society's members rather than by shareholders — signalled in its latest annual report that it was now keeping its options open. Probably not big enough to float on its own, it could well be looking for a partner. *This* January, *it denied it was in* talks with Bradford & Bingley.

The Alliance & Leicester is in talks with Nationwide, the other front-runner. According to one commentator's jaundiced view, this is "a potential disaster waiting to happen".

All this is, of course, highly *speculative, but investors* who fancy their chances are probably best off opening share, rather than deposit, savings accounts. While the C&G deal excluded share-account holders of less than two years' standing while including depositors, future deals are more likely to follow the Halifax/Leeds pattern of *paying out to all share-account holders and excluding all depositors.* What is more, with a share account, you get to vote on whether or not the deal should go ahead. A minimum of £100 deposit should qualify you for a handout.

> ‘ Definitely not too late for investors to punt on who will be next ’

Future bonus payments are also likely to be skewed towards a basic allocation given to each member.

In the Halifax/Leeds case, for example, the basic share allocation will account for three quarters of the total handout, and only balances of *£1,000 or more will get extra shares on top.*

Finally, remember that even when a society has agreed a deal, it might be years before members get their hands on the promised bonus.

■ At their respective annual meetings this month, both the Birmingham Midshires and the Britannia denied that they were seeking mergers, or conversion into banks. But similar declarations by other societies have not always deterred them from doing so in the future.

COMMENT

LIZ DOLAN

Chickening out of condemnation

Endowment-linked mortgages are bad for you, says the report issued this week by the Office of Fair Trading. Or at least, that is what it appears to be saying. Contrary to the expectations of many critics — and the fears of many sellers — of this type of home loan, the report *actually chickens out of* an upfront condemnation.

It also chickens out of outright condemnation of those advisers who recommended them purely so that they could pick up the commission.

Instead, Alexander Clay, the *firm of actuaries that compiled* the report on behalf of the OFT, contented itself with warning that high charges and falling stock markets could spell grief for millions of homebuyers currently sitting on this type of mortgage.

It says: "Our main conclusion must be that the choice of mortgage type depends on weighing risks and returns in the circumstances of the borrower." Sir Bryan Carsberg, the OFT's Director-General, followed suit. "I do not offer a conclusion as to the type of mortgage which is a general best buy. *Borrowers must* decide this for themselves with an understanding of the issues," he says in the introduction to the report.

What use is that sort of advice to the average homebuyer? The *complexities of different mortgage* products are incomprehensible to most people. That is why they take the advice of professionals when deciding which one to pick. People who visit doctors do not expect to have to advise *him or her which treatment is the most* appropriate.

The sole reason why virtually every new borrower chose an endowment mortgage in the 1980s housing boom was because "professionals" advised them to do so. *The same applies to the three in five that do so nowadays. Sir Bryan has* called for this area to be brought under the auspices of the City regulators, which may help future borrowers. But, what about those who already have endowment mortgages?

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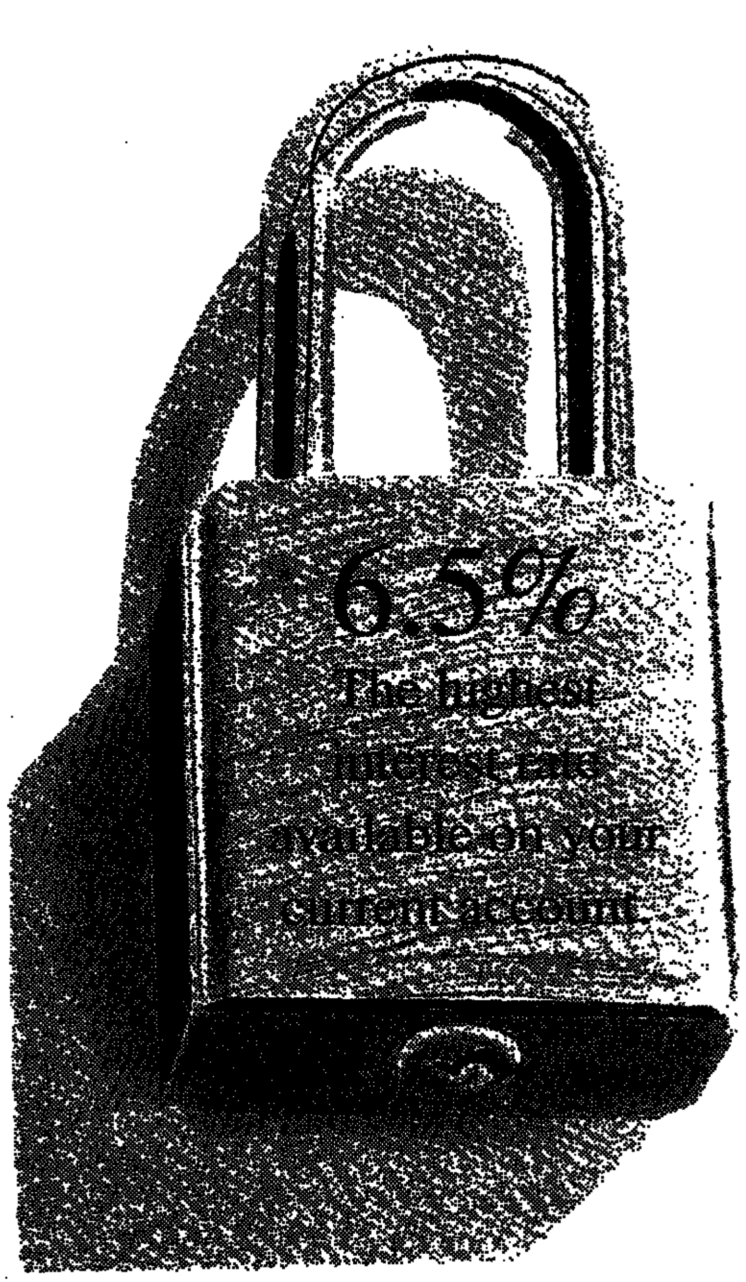

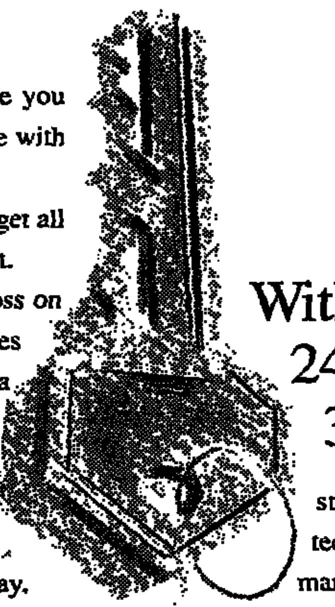

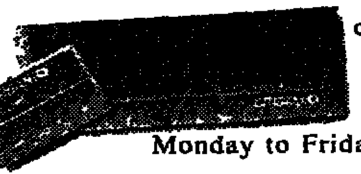

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TI 03/95

Liz Dolan and Sara McConnell track latest important developments in the

Facing up to big change in pensions

This week, all eyes in the pensions industry were focused on Westminster and Birmingham. On Monday, the Pensions Bill began its second reading in the House of Commons. Two days *later, members of the National* Association of Pensions Funds flocked to attend their annual conference in the Midlands capital.

The topics under discussion at both locations could ultimately involve huge changes *to the* lives of *pensioners*, both those who have already retired, and those of the future. *Some changes are imminent*, not least the provision in the new Finance Act, due to receive Royal Assent in the next week or so, which will go some way to end the annuities lottery currently *faced by many* new retirees (see separate report, facing page). Other proposed changes, such as the forthcoming equalisation of the pension age, due to be phased in after 2010, are still some way off, but will affect the lives of many of *today's* workers.

> Companies may change the nature of the business every few years

But, whatever happens, most of the population is still desperately ignorant of what is likely to happen to them in retirement, despite acres of newsprint explaining the details of many of the proposed *innovations*.

The main problem is that, as well as being the most boring topic in the world — one with which to send dinner party guests into a coma at 20 paces — pensions also tend to be extremely complicated. Those *who do understand them* are often incapable of explaining the complexities to those who do not. Those who do not understand them tend, therefore, to stick their heads in the sand.

Until recently, most people got *on with their working lives* with *never* a thought about what would happen to them in retirement. *The State* would provide. Those who paid into company pension schemes either assumed that they were in line for a financially secure old *age, or resented having to* make the compulsory contributions — or had little clear idea of what exactly they were paying for.

Those without access to occupational schemes were mostly unaware of the existence *of any alternatives*.

Nowadays, the subject is no sexier — and no easier to understand — for the majority of the population. But it has become one in which more and more people feel constrained to take an interest. Awful warnings from government think-tanks and other commentators about the burgeoning numbers of pensioners supported by a dwindling workforce, coupled with all the worrying publicity given to *scandals such as the* Maxwell saga and the alleged mis-selling of pension plans to *hundreds and thousands* of people, have forced a rethink.

This week came further bad news for those who still have faith that the State will look after them when they retire. The Government Actuary's Department was reported to *be planning to cut payments* made by the state earnings related pensions scheme (Serps) virtually by half over the next 50 years.

However, at the NAPF's conference, proposals were discussed for the setting up of a *new compulsory national* pension scheme (see story below).

While this would be run by the private sector, it would have full state backing and, for the very low-paid, state money to boot. At the same time, the NAPF *is calling for the reinstatement* of regulations forcing all employees with access to a company scheme to contribute to it.

Even this will not necessarily guarantee total peace of mind.

In a speech to the conference delegates, Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General of the Institute of Directors, said: "In an increasingly fast-moving commercial world, companies may need to change the nature of the (occupational pensions) *business every few years*."

THE WAY AHEAD?

DETAILS of a compulsory national pension scheme involving half the working population *were* circulated this week at the National Association of Pension Funds annual conference. *Members* were asked to comment on the scheme, which forms the basis of the NAPF's submission to an official inquiry into retirement income.

Its aim is to provide an income on retirement equal to *at least half* average *lifetime* earnings for anyone who does not have access to a good company pension scheme. Contributors to the scheme would be able to move freely between jobs, or in and out of work. Contributions for people with *very low incomes* would be provided by the State.

The NAPF says the scheme *would not* work *if it was* voluntary. "Only a compulsory system will ensure that all those who are able to do so make adequate provision for their retirement," it says.

The need for such a plan was highlighted this week by news *of government plans to slash* benefits paid under the state earnings related pension Scheme over the next 50 years.

Celebrating the end of the Second World War: now war widows will benefit from changes

WOMEN who lost their right to a war widow's pension *when they remarried could now have* their benefits restored if they are widowed a second time, or if they divorce.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, has committed his department to spending £40 million a year on restoring the benefits of 16,500 widows, who, in some cases, have been losing out on tax-free payments of more than £100 a week. The first claims should be dealt with in October, provided the Pensions Bill has received Royal Assent by then.

As the law stands, once a war widow remarries, she immediately forfeits her DSS state pension. There is no provision for it to be restored. The standard war widow's pension is £76.35 a week, with an extra £8.70 at 65, £16.75 at 70, and £24.95 at 80. A woman of 70 could stand to get £142.87 a week, if her husband's service finished before the end of March 1973. This payment is free of tax and £59.77 of it is disregarded when calculating income-related benefits.

But Alf Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, has pointed out that some war widows would still miss out because of restrictions on payments under the Armed Forces' Pension Scheme. Those who married after their husbands retired do not receive a widow's pension from the Armed Forces' Pension Scheme *if* he retired before 1978. *Younger war widows have their pension* restored after a second bereavement or divorce only if they fail a means test.

Older war widows whose husbands retired on or before April 1 1973 receive only a third of their husband's pension.

No change for retired expats

The Government is refusing to commit itself to uprating the state pensions of hundreds of thousands of British expatriates *whose payment* levels *have* been frozen since they emigrated.

During this week's Commons debate at the second reading of the Pensions Bill, William Hague, the Social Security Minister, said that *the pleas of the expatriate* lobby "do not fall on deaf ears but they do fall on the ears of ministers who have to manage a huge budget on which there are constant upward pressures".

He promised that the issue would *be debated "later in* more detail", but gave no other commitment.

An estimated 381,000 British pensioners living in former dominions and parts of the *British Empire* are living on pensions frozen at the level at which basic state pensions were set when they retired.

Their pensions have not been uprated in line with inflation as they would have been in this country. Winston *Churchill, the Conservative* MP who is campaigning on behalf of the pensioners, told the Commons that 118,000 Britons in Canada are living on an average of £20.36 a week. One woman, who left Britain for Canada in 1968, *has had her pension frozen at* £4.50 a week. This compares with a full UK basic state pension of £58.85 a week for a single person. The married couple's allowance is £94.10.

Derrick Prance, of the British Australia Pensioners' Association, said that the Australian Government makes up the difference between a frozen UK pension and a current Australian pension but the benefit is means-*tested. The Australian* Government has repeatedly made it clear that it wants the British Government to pick up the bill.

The Government estimates that uprating the pensions of excluded expatriates would cost £235 *million*.

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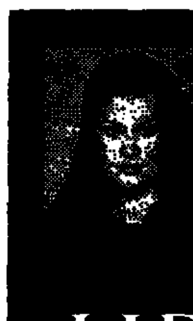

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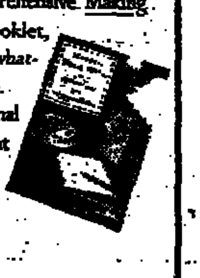

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pensions industry and analyse how the new implications will affect investors

Until retirement do us part

The Government is proposing to give courts the power to force pension schemes to make separate payments to former partners as part of any divorce settlement. But Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, has refused to accept proposals from the pensions industry to allow courts to value the pension on divorce and split it immediately, giving both partners their own entitlement.

During the second reading of the Pensions Bill this week, he told the House of Commons that the Government would forfeit £300 million a year in tax revenue if it took this route.

Instead, Mr Lilley has accepted an Opposition amendment in the House of Lords that gives the courts the power to force pension schemes to make payments under "deferred maintenance orders": in other words, at retirement.

That would condemn those who are awarded a part of a pension in this way to years of waiting for a payout. There will be no prospect of a clean break as they will have to keep tabs on their ex-spouse's employment right up to the time he, or she, retires.

Some women set sail for a brighter old age — but experts give warning of possible choppy waters for the divorced

As the law stands, courts outside Scotland do not have to take the pension into account when working out a divorce settlement, although they can if they want to. Neither English nor Scottish courts have the power to transfer part of the pension.

Mr Lilley has come under fierce attack from pensions experts, who predict that the Government's proposals will create an administrative and, in some cases, financial nightmare for pension schemes and ex-spouses. They say that people who have to wait until their former partner retires before collecting their share of the pension could face the following problems:

- Instead of making a clean break, they will have to keep in contact with their former partner's employer, pressing for regular information about the performance of the pension and how much is likely to be available on retirement. Trustees are unlikely to be obliged to give out this information automatically.
- Financial difficulties arising between divorce and retirement might have been averted if the benefits had been split on divorce.
- If the holder of the pension dies before retirement, the pension dies too and the former spouse gets nothing.

The fewer assets partners have between them, and the older they are when they divorce, the more likely they are to be awarded part of the pension. If there are other substantial assets, such as a house, or shares, one former partner could buy the other out, giving them immediate realisable assets while keeping the pension. This is not possible if there are not enough free assets.

Younger women who divorce will almost certainly be expected to build up their own pension, while older women who have not worked for a long time and could not expect high earnings are more likely to be allocated a share of the pension.

More details of how the Government's proposals will work are likely to come out when the Bill is debated at the committee stage in the Commons. But it looks unlikely that the principle of earmarking a portion of the pension at retirement will be rejected in favour of splitting the pension on divorce.

Annuities win more flexibility

Changes contained in the new Finance Act, which is due to be given Royal Assent in the next week or so, could herald the end of the old, sudden-death approach to pension planning.

Hitherto, the requirement to convert the proceeds of a pension plan into an annuity upon retirement has pegged the income of many a pensioner at levels well below those achieved by others who had the good fortune to retire at a time when annuity rates were high.

In theory, at least, the changes will allow anyone retiring when annuity rates are low to wait for them to improve, so long as they buy before their 75th birthday. They will be required to take a certain level of income from the fund, but the rest of the money will be invested for further growth. If they die, this money (minus 35 per cent tax), will be available for their heirs, whereas money used to buy annuities dies with the annuitant.

The new method of funding retirement will not be suitable for everyone. To start with, it can be operated only via a personal pension plan. Those in other schemes, such as, a pre-1988 retirement annuity contract, may find that the costs of switching outweigh any advantage that they may gain. People in final-salary schemes, especially those providing indexed pensions, are also unlikely to do better by transferring.

In addition, there are fears that the whole of the retirement fund will dwindle, or even disappear completely, through ill-advised investments.

Rob Gains, head of pensions marketing with J Rothschild, says: "This has already been called 'the new transfer scandal' by some people. If we do go into the market, we'll be looking for a fairly cautious risk profile."

Provident Life (or Winterthur Life, as it will be known from Monday) this week launched the first policy geared to accommodating the new arrangements. Called the Pension Income Portfolio, it offers a choice of three investment methods, the freedom to convert to a conventional annuity at any time up to 75, and various ways to provide for dependants.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Postal accounts prove popular

While interest rates remain low, postal accounts continue to increase in popularity. Freed from expensive administrative costs, building societies are able to offer higher interest rates on postal accounts than on branch-based alternatives. Many customers consider them more convenient as they cut out the need to travel.

Postal accounts are offered mainly by societies that are strong in a particular region but do not have an extensive network of branches nationwide. However, 35 per cent of postal account holders with the Coventry live in the Greater Midlands area.

The Coventry says: "People want somewhere safe to keep their money for at least a year. Not everyone wants to keep their eggs in one basket. People are increasingly busy and do not want to have to go in and out of their nearest branch."

The average balance at the Coventry is £25,000, which is higher than the industry average. Since it opened in February 1995, only seven people have closed their Postal 50 Account. The rates are attractive at 7.05 per cent gross on savings of £10,000, but 50 days' notice is required unless you pay the penalty for an instant withdrawal.

Graham Hooper, Investment Director of Chase de Vere, says: "Most people are prepared to suffer delays because they are making large withdrawals, often to buy a car."

Instant access accounts are most popular, and Mr Hooper recommends Britannia's Capital Trust Account, which pays 6.35 per cent gross on savings of £10,000. Otherwise, Northern Rock's Postal 60 Account at 6.85 per cent for £10,000.

Cheltenham & Gloucester was the first major society to offer savings by post in 1989.

Most accounts now offer tiered rates and give the option of having interest added monthly. The minimum investment is usually between £1,000 and £2,500. Anyone interested should examine interest rate figures, the flexibilty of the account and the security offered by big-name societies.

Pre-paid stationery is usually supplied, as well as a telephone helpline or cashcard. Most societies offer a 24-hour turnround on transactions.

Chase de Vere's Moneyline is a useful source of information on 0800 526091.

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SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	1st Class Acc	Postal	£1,000	6.20	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.25	Yly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	First Class	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.70	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Fixed Rate Bond	31.5.99	£5,000	8.50	F/Yly
Woolwich BS 0800 400900	2 Year Fixed	2yr bond	£500	8.00	F/Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500	Investmnt Certs	5yr bond	£1,000	8.60	F/Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	3 Year Fixed	31.3.98	£5,000	8.50	F/Yly

TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500		5 year	£8,300	8.50	F/Yly
Hinckley & Rugby BS 0800 774499		5 year	£3,000 A	7.65	Yly
Market Harborough BS 01858 463244		5 year	£9,000	7.75	Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£500	7.50	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Alliance & Leicester 0500 900250	Visa	1.375%	16.90%	£10 E

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0141 223 2216	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland Bank 0345 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Abbey National 01908 690140	16.90%	£117.41	£105.05

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

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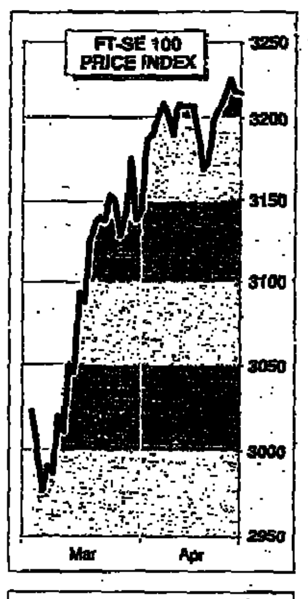
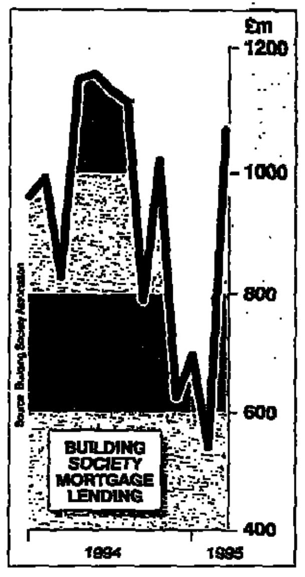
Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 665)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000	-	01416494555
Investment A/c* ₐ	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* ₐ	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond ₐ	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362556
42nd Issue Certt ₐ	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Yearly Plant ₐ	5.85			20-400/mth	14day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.86			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond ₐ	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linkedt ₐ	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2 ₐ	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000ₐ	60day	01253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₓGuaranteed when held for 5 years ᵩ0.3% net bonus for £30,000+ ᵪ£40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings ᵃTaxable but cred in full.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equit Lfe ....Level	£10,599	£11,645	£12,984
Can Life ....Level	£10,483	£11,840	£13,208
Sn Lfe Ca ....Level	£10,694	£11,723	£13,080
MGM Asrnce ....Level	£10,659	£11,715	£13,161
Generali ....Level	£10,692	£11,706	£13,032

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Nrch Union............Level	£9,922	£10,641	£11,714
Royal Life ....Level	£9,688	£10,511	£11,731
Sn Lfe Ca ....Level	£9,812	£10,578	£11,662
Generali ....Level	£9,805	£10,636	£11,792
MGM Asrnce ....Level	£9,927	£10,670	£11,779

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Nrwch Uni ....Level	£9,606	£10,143	£10,924
Sn Lfe Ca ....Level	£9,450	£10,033	£10,849
Canada Lfe ....Level	£9,260	£9,906	£10,826
MGM Asrnce ....Level	£9,621	£10,226	£11,095
Generali ....Level	£9,463	£10,067	£10,906

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 375 1175)

Compiled by: Morag Preston

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at April 26 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	1,000	Premium Life	4.50
	5,000	AIG Life	5.55
	10,000	AIG Life	5.75
	20,000	AIG Life	5.85
	50,000	AIG Life	5.90
	100,000	AIG Life	5.95
	250,000	AIG Life	6.00
2 Years	3,000	Gan Life	5.20
	5,000	AIG Life	6.05
	10,000	AIG Life	6.25
	20,000	AIG Life	6.35
	50,000	AIG Life	6.40
	100,000	AIG Life	6.45
	250,000	AIG Life	6.50
3 Years	1,000	Premium Life	5.70
	3,000	Eurolife	6.70
	5,000	Eurolife	6.80
	10,000	Eurolife	6.90
	25,000	Eurolife	7.00
4 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.40
	50,000	GAN Life	6.50
5 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.50
	3,000	Eurolife	7.20
	5,000	Eurolife	7.30
	10,000	Eurolife	7.40
	25,000	Eurolife	7.50

Source. Chamberlain de Broé 01225 483636. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
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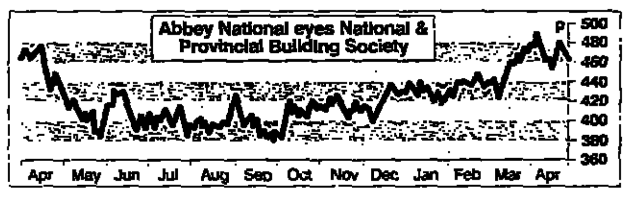
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	113.50	10.238	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	125.75	10.326	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	127.75	10.461	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	123.75	10.498	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	117.50	9.991	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	115.50	10.477	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	105.00	11.193	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	88.50	9.880	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	119.25	9.926	100.28	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	136.50	9.967	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	127.50	10.462	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	103.125	10.422	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	122.75	10.270	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	121.75	10.364	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	122.25	10.525	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	9.6750%	103.00	100.00	1,000
Cheshire	9.50156%	100.50	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Natnl & Provincial 01274 733444	2.95	neg	90	5.5% discount for 12 months
Britannia 0800 526350	2.95	neg	80	5.49% discount for 12 months
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	2.49	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.5.96
Banks				
Abbey National 0800 555100	3.15	neg	75	5.19% discount to 30.6.96
Lloyds Local branch	3.60	£60k+	60	4.75% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	1.00	£25-100k	95	7.45%dsc-6mnths 2%d-6mnths 5%d-12mnths
Hinckley & Rugby 0455 251234	1.25	to £150k	70	7.14% disc-9mns
Yorkshire 0274 740740	1.44	£25-£150k	95	7% disc-6 mnths 3% disc-6 mnths
Banks				
Abbey National 0800 555100	3.15	neg	75	5.19% discount to 30.6.96
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.51%dsc-1.1.96 3% dsc-1.7.96

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hinckley&Rugby 0455 251 234	1.25	to 150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 mnths
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.15	£30k+	75	5.30% discount for 12 mnths
Skipton 0800 590545	2.29	to £150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Abbey National 0131 556 8555	3.15	neg	75	5.19% discount to 30.6.96
Lloyds Local Branch	3.60	£60K+	95	4.75% for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Ernie wants your views

From Mr Alan McGill

Sir, David Morley (Weekend Money Letters, April 15) suggests the Premium Bond prize fund should be restructured and invites comment from National Savings. He is concerned that while the odds of winning any prize in the draws are fixed and unchanging, the prospects of winning one of £5,000 or more are reduced as the prize fund increases. As he observes, this is because the additional prize fund money is allocated to prizes of £1,000 or less.

We know that many of our large holders — and we are now approaching 250,000 holdings of £5,000 or more — are attracted by the idea of frequent small wins to produce tax-free income, coupled with the outside chance of winning a big prize of up to £1 million. In order to give people the opportunity to win frequently, we have to provide a huge number of small prizes — currently the figure is over 320,000 a month. Statistically, holders of £5,000 should average four prizes a year and maximum holders (£20,000) 16 prizes a year.

Recently, we commissioned research to find out people's preferences about the prize structure. Most respondents favoured prizes in the middle range — £500 and £1,000 — and doing away with the £50 prizes. (A £100 minimum would, of course, mean far fewer prizes and a lengthening of the odds.)

Some, like David Morley, would prefer more high-value prizes, even though this reduces their overall chances of winning. And the evidence, from how people respond with their money, is that they like a big jackpot prize. We added a net £1.5 billion to the prize fund in the first full year after raising the jackpot to £1 million.

I would like to invite readers who have their own views on the prize structure to write to me noting the envelope Prize Structure. Informed and constructive comment like Mr Morley's is very important to us in assessing what kind of changes would make Premium Bonds even more attractive.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN McGILL
(Controller),
National Savings,
Blackpool, FY3 9YP.

People queued to buy Premium Bonds in 1956: now National Savings wants your views

Odds against

From Mrs S. Panesar

Sir, Further to David Morley's letter, I note that National Savings do not (dare not?) publish in their prospectus the odds, separately, of a £1 bond winning the £1 million jackpot, which must be something in the region of a 1 in 3 billion to 4 billion chance. Camelot state clearly in their leaflet what the odds are of a £1 ticket winning the jackpot and then list further prize odds. As the chances of a jackpot win worsen as more bonds are bought, National Savings would have to publish jackpot odds information on the basis of "at the time of going to print".

The cessation of Ernie's weekly draw reduced the number of higher prizes to fund the elusive £1 million jackpot. With the continuing popularity of Premium Bonds, could a situation be eventually reached where the jackpot odds become 1 in 10 billion per £1 bond?

Yours faithfully,
S. PANESAR,
35 Danywern Drive,
Winnersh,
Near Wokingham,
Berkshire.

A case for compensating indirect victims of with-profits pensions

From Mr Philip J. Neal

Sir, I refer to the article by Robert Miller (Weekend Money, April 22) outlining plans drawn up by the Personal Investment Authority to compensate investors who have suffered losses as a result of being mis-sold personal pensions.

May I ask Ms Bowe what plans there are, if any, to compensate the indirect victims of this debacle, for example, the many other investors who have bought with-profits pension plans from these various companies and whose investments will now, presumably, be used in part to help pay any compensation which may be awarded.

Surely, it is wrong in principle to compensate one group of investors at the expense of another. Many of these other investors are self-employed people with no union to argue their case and no employer's contribution to augment their funds. They have had to set aside a considerable portion of their income in order to provide for their retirement, and they now face the prospect of receiving a reduced pension, through no fault of their own. Would it not be fair to say that these peoople have an equally good case for compensation?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP J. NEAL,
2 The Coppice,
Longton,
Preston, Lancashire.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5112. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. *The Times* regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Comparing the increasing costs of water

From Miss Seonaid Cameron

Sir, Keith Cresswell (Weekend Money, April 8) reports that his 1995-96 account from Three Valleys Water shows an 8.48 per cent increase on last year and brings the combined three-year increase to 23.55 per cent. He asks how this three-year level compares with that of other water companies and with inflation over the same period. He is fortunate. In Scotland, water is still controlled by the local authorities, which levy a water rate. As a pensioner, living alone in an E-band flat, my 1995-96 rate shows a rise of 17 per cent and a two-year increase of 31.41 per cent. The three-year increase is a staggering 275 per cent, due to the change from community charge to council tax.

Yours faithfully,
SEONAID CAMERON,
40 Strathearn Road,
Edinburgh.

Direct routes to pay credit cards bills

From Mr David L. Shapiro

Sir, Philip Wraight (Weekend Money, April 22), writing of the payment of credit card bills by direct debit, says "the Co-operative Bank is the only one I know of which will collect the full amount". The Royal Bank of Scotland Access/Mastercard account has been offering to collect the full amount monthly by direct debit since March 1993.

This was about a year after the Co-operative Bank introduced this facility with the launch of its gold card.

The TSB Trustcard accounts (Mastercard and Visa) are, I understand, also prepared to collect in the same way, though for some unascertainable reason they do not publicise this, preferring to collect (by direct debit) the minimum payment only.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID L. SHAPIRO,
34 Woodhill Crescent,
Harrow,
Middlesex,
HA3 OLY.

Offshore firm investigated

Sara McConnell on an inquiry by the SIB

Regulators are investigating the activities of World Wide Associates, an offshore company that has been targeting members of the public with an offer to "earn some serious money in a professional money programme". In return, investors are being asked to put up £10,000 plus a £117 registration fee to buy an "associateship" in the business.

A mailshot, sent to several Weekend Money readers among others, promises a "minimum return" of 100 per cent on capital invested in the first year after investors have bought an associateship.

It claims that the investment "does not involve putting capital at risk or dealing on the stock market or in property". It gives no details of the nature of the investment beyond pointing out the tax advantages of operating offshore.

The Securities and Investments Board, whose chairman is Andrew Large, said this week that World Wide Associates' scheme was not authorised as an investment in the UK. Investors would, therefore, not be covered by the industry's compensation scheme. Under the Financial Services Act, anyone selling investments to UK residents has to be authorised, even if the company is offshore. Brian Cross, whose name, address and telephone number are at the bottom of some of the mailshots, has been instructed by the SIB to stop his activities. He is not authorised under the Act.

Large: plea for help

Mr Cross has consistently refused to answer questions from *The Times*. He initially denied knowing anything about the mailshot. Later, he wrote to say that he was "not in a position to discuss the matter further". He has now confirmed that he has stopped his activities on the SIB's instructions.

As far as the SIB is aware, no one has been persuaded to part with any money, but it says it wants to hear from anyone who has done so or who has more information on the nature of World Wide Associates.

It also wants to hear from anyone who has been contacted by someone other than Mr Cross in connection with WWA.

If you have any information, contact the Enforcement Division at the SIB on 0171-638 1240.

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†Source: Micropal 6 months to 1.4.95 offer to bid basis.

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ADDRESS

Postcode Date of Birth
Tel: (Office)
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 259 783

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
[illegible]	163.09	172.50	+ 1.00	0.16
[illegible] Equity	253.10	264.00	- 2.00	2.09
[illegible]	206.30	218.30	- 5.70	0.70
[illegible]	111.90	116.00	+ 0.70	2.82
[illegible]	75.00	75.08	- 0.07	5.26
[illegible]	155.50	165.50	- 3.70	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 549 3232

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
Gen enq: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0171 332 5000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK General Tst	62.95	66.96	- 0.67	2.47

COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inc	635.46	642.94		4.87
Accum	627.51	627.62		
Fixed Int Inc	119.75	120.05		9.58
Fixed Int Acc	190.20	190.68		

CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD
0171 837 7667

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Growth	116.00	120.72		
UK Income	102.89	112.21	.	5.300

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bedfmost Intl	77.29	81.85	- 0.40	1.48
Beck Bio-Tech	26.24	27.81	- 0.45	
Acorn Emrcal Tst	150.93	158.47	+ 1.81	0.71
City Fin Acorn	67.70	71.09	- 0.36	1.98
City Fin America	87.91	92.31	+ 1.98	
City Fin Intl	74.64	78.17	- 0.42	0.93
City Fin Japan	161.26	169.34	- 3.53	
Frenc Hse Cap	267.51	289.77	- 0.22	1.70
Frens Hse Inc	187.64	203.68	- 0.45	4.14
Buckley Wrld Sch	120.08	127.28	- 1.58	
Falrenr Cap Grt	130.58	139.08	- 0.66	
Edinmount Intl	141.37	151.15	- 0.73	
City Fin Pffic Inc	52.49	56.91	- 0.81	4.32

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin. 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	51.93	55.10	+ 0.27	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Gwth	58.56	62.63	- 0.58	
Aflic Mngd Gwth	35.84	38.33	- 0.09	0.63
Dragon Growth	60.98	65.22	- 0.95	0.98
Equity High Inc	81.12	86.30	+ 0.60	4.21
(Accum Units)	109.92	116.62	- 5.79	4.21
European Gwth	51.32	54.60	+ 0.94	1.16
Evergreen	26.62	28.47	- 0.05	
General Equity	82.67	87.71	- 0.62	2.32
Japan Growth	51.05	54.60	- 0.73	
Perform Gwth	50.18	53.22	- 0.56	2.82
Pac Sm Cos Inc	29.40	31.28	- 0.29	1.65
(Accum Units)	30.55	32.50	+ 0.31	1.65
Retirement Inc #	25.28	26.83	- 0.17	5.80
Special Sits	37.03	39.39	- 0.13	2.20
UK & Overseas	47.16	50.17	- 0.25	1.44

COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Capital	67.98	72.56	- 0.66	2.55
Income	61.15	64.80	+ 0.50	4.15

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	153.75	163.14	- 1.87	5.36
Fixed & Convertible	37.92	40.34	- 0.14	7.45
Monthly Inc Plus	46.45	49.41	+ 0.24	9.02
Preference Share	44.36	47.21	+ 0.03	8.00
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	117.48	124.98	- 0.97	6.50
Managed Fund	66.27	70.29	+ 0.26	3.22
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	36.29	39.71	- 0.26	2.07
(Accum Units)	42.35	45.05	- 0.32	2.07
UK General	77.58	82.53	- 0.56	3.16
(Accum Units)	98.38	104.66	- 0.71	3.16
UK Growth	143.92	153.11	- 1.39	2.75
International Growth Funds				
Europa Growth	184.77	196.56	- 3.15	0.22
Far Eastern Grth	120.87	128.59	- 1.98	
Global Bond	76.62	81.43	- 0.15	6.14
Japan Growth	115.03	122.37	- 1.33	
North Amer Gth	167.62	178.32	- 2.02	
Oriental Growth	70.24	74.72	- 0.42	0.11
Worldwide Growth	64.21	68.31	- 0.44	0.08
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.76	91.76	- 0.08	6.07
Homemaker Fund	76.87	81.78	- 0.47	1.85
Quality Fund	125.80	133.83	- 1.17	2.42

For Confederation see Sun Life of Canada

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Consistent UT	30.39	32.50	- 0.24	3.42

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Growth	140.90	149.90	- 3.50	1.68
Income	66.89	71.16	+ 0.55	5.02
European	60.50	64.37	+ 1.06	0.88
Recovery	154.20	164.10	- 1.00	1.92

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
(Accum Units)	427.50	454.60	+ 4.60	1.61
Cond Smlr Cos	57.91	61.95	+ 0.21	0.58
(Accum Units)	60.80	65.15	+ 0.22	0.58
Commodity	121.30	129.00	+ 0.90	5.87
(Accum Units)	245.10	260.70	- 1.90	5.87
Emerging Markets	61.81	68.03	- 0.04	0.24
(Accum Units)	61.87	68.09	+ 0.05	0.24
European	117.20	124.20	- 1.60	0.13
(Accum Units)	122.80	130.30	- 1.70	0.13
Extra Income	325.60	346.30	+ 2.50	4.14
(Accum Units)	489.20	520.30	+ 3.90	4.14
Financial	118.40	127.40	+ 0.30	0.30
(Accum Units)	125.40	134.90	+ 0.30	0.30
Gilt Trust	61.64	63.57	+ 0.12	6.84
(Accum Units)	83.44	[illegible]	- 0.15	6.84
Health Fund Inc	133.00	142.00	- 0.30	
(Accum Units)	133.00	142.00	- 0.30	
Income & Growth	186.70	200.70	+ 2.10	3.32
(Accum Units)	284.90	302.10	+ 3.20	3.32
Intl Growth	347.50	371.30	- 0.40	
(Accum Units)	386.00	412.90	- 0.50	
Japan & Gen	164.70	175.90	- 1.90	
(Accum Units)	166.30	177.70	- 1.90	
Monthly Inc	157.00	168.90	+ 1.20	4.09
Managed Port Inc	100.20	105.50	- 0.60	1.79
(Accum Units)	107.50	113.20	- 0.60	1.79
Quarterly Income	51.34	54.61	+ 3.49	4.73
(Accum Units)	55.11	58.62	- 0.53	4.73
Recovery	325.30	347.80	- 1.20	0.13
(Accum Units)	382.90	409.40	- 1.40	0.13
UK Growth	53.50	57.17	+ 0.51	2.79
(Accum Units)	55.34	59.13	- 0.51	2.79

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FP Am Smllr Cos	114.10	122.00	- 1.70	0.0
FP Asian Growth	236.40	252.80	- 0.90	0.0
FP Australian	315.10	338.00	- 4.30	0.0
FP Equity Dist	378.30	402.90	+ 2.60	2.81
-do- Accum	799.80	850.80	+ 5.40	2.51
FP Euro Gth Dist	146.00	155.30	- 3.30	0.75
-do- Accum	152.20	161.90	- 3.50	0.75
FP Fixed Int Dist	129.30	136.70	- 0.30	7.37
-do- Accum	240.30	253.90	- 0.50	7.37
FP Intl Bond	56.30	59.54	- 0.06	4.97
FP Intl Gth Dist	90.57	96.35	+ 0.34	9.74
-do- Accum	94.76	100.80	+ 0.30	0.74
FP Nth Amer Dist	185.30	196.20	- 0.90	1.11
-do- Accum	204.10	216.20	- 1.00	1.11
FP Pac Basin Acc	134.60	[illegible]	- 0.10	
FP Income	54.07	57.67	- 1.07	5.16
(Accum Units)	175.00	186.60	- 3.40	5.16
FP Jap Smllr Cos	311.70	332.40	- 3.80	0.0
FP Monthly Dist	70.14	74.65	- 0.84	5.93
FP Stg Deposit	100.30	100.30		6.25
FP Tokyo	37.56	[illegible]	- 1.79	0.0
FP UK Focus	35.99	38.17	- 0.09	1.97
FP UK Growth	169.20	180.50	+ 2.10	2.76
(Accum Units)	327.60	349.80	- 4.00	2.76
Stewardship Dist	339.20	360.20	+ 4.90	2.03
-do- Accum	402.70	428.30	+ 6.00	2.03
Stewdshp Inc Dist	69.74	74.19	+ 0.47	3.77
-do- Accum	90.47	96.24	- 0.61	3.77
N Am Stshp Dist	93.72	99.66	+ 0.26	0.85
-do- Accum	98.99	105.30	- 0.30	0.85
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Grwth Acc	106.40	113.10	- 0.30	1.12
Open Cap Gth Acc	107.10	112.90	- 1.70	0.26
Cap Gth Inc Inc	102.80	109.30	- 1.00	2.58
Cap Gth Inc Acc	105.20	111.90	- 1.00	2.58
Con Cp Gth Ic Ic	104.60	111.20	- 1.20	3.06
Con Cp Gth Ic Ac	107.10	113.90	- 1.20	3.06
NM Unit Trusts				
American	45.37	48.25	+ 0.33	1.08
European	203.60	216.60	- 4.00	0.75
(Accum Units)	221.30	234.80	- 4.30	0.75
Intl	31.62	33.74	+ 0.28	0.93
(Accum Units)	45.85	48.93	- 0.41	0.53

GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0345 581 1067

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
GANDA	235.10	248.80	- 2.80	2.48
Cash	49.74	50.49	+ 0.04	5.21
Growth Portfolio	74.75	79.21	- 0.03	1.03
Income Portfolio	62.23	65.81	+ 0.72	4.68

GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD
0171 236 6441

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Special Sits	187.10	200.10	+ 8.50	1.43
Dividend	86.26	92.26	- 1.15	3.64
Intl Gth & Inc	216.30	231.30	+ 2.70	3.03
UK & Gen	43.26	46.27	- 0.72	1.81
Fund of Funds	60.79	65.02	+ 0.50	

GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0171 710 4567 Dealing 0171 626 9431

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits	187.10	200.20	- 3.80	
European	545.40	581.30	- 14.90	0.34
Far East & Gen	229.80	245.80	- 0.90	
Germany	114.20	121.90	- 2.70	
Income Inc	150.60	161.10	+ 2.50	4.54
(Accum Units)	162.10	174.00	+ 2.10	4.54
International	302.80	325.90	- 2.90	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
International	74.25	79.21	- 0.29	0.08
Ecology	80.11	85.22	- 0.93	1.26
European	122.73	130.57	+ 1.82	
Far Eastern	274.70	292.20	- 5.30	

KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers: 0171 956 7364

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Extra Income	49.38	52.53	- 0.74	7.33
Gilt Yield	113.70	120.09	- 0.10	6.67
Global Income	205.80	219.90	- 0.60	4.13
High Yield	134.00	142.60	- 1.10	6.22
(Accum Units)	410.20	436.90	- 3.54	6.22
Smllr Cos Dis	51.16	54.42	+ 1.89	3.08

M W JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	£12.87	£13.13	+ 17.70	3.40
Income #	963.20	979.60	+ 6.20	4.60

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Maldon General	136.60	139.60	.	4.31

MANULIFE MANAGEMENT LTD
Dealings: 01438 747 414

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Growth Units	197.70	211.40	+ 2.10	2.36
Gilt & Fxd Int	167.00	175.90	- 0.10	6.69
Intl Growth	205.60	218.50	+ 0.50	0.38

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M & S Inc Pfolio	151.20	159.10	- 1.00	2.22
-do- Accum	174.00	183.20	+ 1.30	2.22
UK Sel Pfolio	130.00	136.90	- 1.30	2.50
-do- Accum	151.20	159.10	- 1.50	2.50

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BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492	413	Abbey Natl	465	+ 2	4.8	9.4
295	250	Allied Irish	289	...	4.8	8.4
233	198	Aus New Z	225	+ 3	5.0	8.3
3158¼	2531¼	Bank America	3087½	- 12½	...	...
230	191½	Bank Scotland	224	+ 4	3.3	9.8
655	552½	Barclays†	639	- 5	4.1	6.9
339	288	Bk of Ireland	332	- 1	4.3	9.8
483	418	Cater Allen	483	...	7.3	10.0
2889¾	2450	Citicorp	2850	- 6¼	...	
282	219	Close Bros	281	...	3.8	11.8
£153⅝	£129¼	Commerzbk	£150⅝	- 2⅝	3.6	...
1281¼	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan-Y	1262½	- 9⅝	0.5	...
£317⅞	£285	Deutsche Bk	£305¾	+ [illegible]	2.4	...
856¼	612½	Espirito Santo	853¼	+ 3⅛	9.5	
1568¾	1192½	Fuji Bank Y	1494	- 14¾	0.4	...
490	395	Gerrard Nat	431	- 2	7.0	12.4
253	185	Hambros	214	+ 9	6.8	13.1
756⅞	589	HSBC†	732½	...	4.6	9.2
740	578	HSBC Hkt	715½	- ½	4.7	9.0
406	363	Joseph (L)	363	...	6.1	10.6
103	85	King Shaxson	87½	- ½	12.9	8.6
653	528	Kleinwort Benn	543	+ 5	4.2	11.5
644	539	Lloyds†	639½	- ½	5.0	10.8
552	479	Nat Aust Br	534	+ 8	8.3	9.4
556	454	Nat West†	540½	- ½	5.0	9.1
2408	2158	Ottoman Bank	2375	...	6.7	3.3
67	53	Rea Brost	53		2.4	19.5
429	373½	Royal Bk Scot	416	- 6	4.1	11.9
1663	1360	Schroders†	1618	- 2	1.6	15.4
1465	1235	Schroders NV†	1415	- 8	1.8	13.4
86½	81	Singer & Friedl†	84	+ 1½	5.2	-
309	245	Stand Chart†	301	- 1	3.3	9.7
254⅛	217	TSB	249½	+ 1	4.5	10.7
99	79	Unicorn†	84	- 1	4.5	-
784	655	Warburg SG	769	+ 28	3.6	14.1
£103⅝	£90¾	Wells Fargo†	£103⅛	- 1⅞	2.8	...
237¼	211	Westpac	229¼	+ 5¼	2.4	
235	200	Wintrust	203	...	6.5	13.6

BREWERIES

DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
105	91	ABI Leis	103	...	4.9	13.8
596	585	Adam & Harvey	545	...	3.8	6.8
21	16	Alexanders	20	...	6.2	9.6
113	89	Applyard†	107	...	6.8	-
4¼	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3¾	...	1.7	28.8
555	518	BSS Group	555	...	4.1	19.6
24½	20½	Beaming Power	21	...	6.0	10.8
28	25	Bogod 'A'	25	...	3.5	10.5
372	345	Boomerst	372	+ 4	4.5	-
18	10½	Brigend Gp	17	+ ½	1.5	...
98	87	Brit Fittings†	90	...	4.2	
48	28	Brown & Tawse	42	...	...	...
39	33	Bunzl	37	+ 2	6.5	...
270	215	Caltes	245	...	5.9	40.2
88	66	Central Mtr	73	...	4.7	48.6
42	35	Cook (DC)	39	+ 2	3.7	12.0
269	220	Cowie	257	...	4.4	11.1
143	125	Dag Motorst	137	...	6.4	-
598	558	Dalmers El	558	- 5	1.5	13.8
475	408	Diploma	463	- 3	3.6	16.3
540	472	Electrocomponts	538	- 4	2.4	22.0
173	153	Electron House	165	...	2.7	13.9
263	234	Ellis & Everard	254	+ 6	3.9	16.9
111	87	Europein Mtr	103	...	5.5	11.2
407	364	Evans Halshaw†	388	...	4.9	11.4
595	512	Fennell Elect	583	- 2	1.9	-
60	46	Fife Indmar	48	...	7.8	-
24½	15	Gardiner	23½	...	4.3	10.8
24	16	Glenchewton	17	...	...	18.8
73	51	Gowrings	67	...	4.2	-
73	62	Hallen Hldgst	69	...	1.8	13.2
172	148	Harris (Philip)	165	...	5.2	14.5
328	258	Heatys	326	+ 1	3.8	15.1
98	81	Holders Tech†	94	...	8.0	28.2
110	88	ISA Intl	95	...	2.5	-
430	274	Inchcape†	319	- 6	5.9	12.3
68	53	Jacks (Wm)	66	...		15.3
167	142	Kwik-Fit	153	- 2	3.6	16.1
339	277	Lex Service	338	...	5.9	17.6
195	164	Lookers†	168	...	5.6	9.3
15	14	Malaya Grpt	14	...	3.6	33.3
8¾	5	Middlesex	5	- ¼	1.3	-
495	330	Norbain	340	- 8	0.8	15.2
112	78	Northamber	107½	+ 8½	1.3	45.7
155	152	PCT	154	...	6.5	-
253	225	Pendragon†	248	+ 4	4.1	14.4
181	123	Perry Gp	141	...	6.9	-
136	126	Quicks Group†	132	...	5.2	-
171	160	REA	168	...	4.5	34.8
3¾	2¾	Reece	3	...	...	
6	2½	Ross Gp	4¼	...	5.9	-
51½	37½	SEP Indl	49	...	2.7	16.3
51	38	TLS Range†	48	...	3.9	-
233	226	Time Products	231	...	4.7	15.5
220	151	Vardy (Reg)†	216	...	3.0	16.1
245	240	Wholesale Figs	248	...	5.9	22.1
18½	12½	Willis Gp	13	- ½	4.8	7.3
74½	62½	Wilmot	67½	+ 2½	1.2	22.8
77	56½	Wyko	71	...	1.6	25.6
80	66	Young (H)	75	...	6.0	14.0

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England hooker will bow out after World Cup

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

ENGLAND'S pit bull will be muzzled this summer, in his own time, on his own terms. Brian Moore announced yesterday his decision to retire from first-class rugby after the World Cup in South Africa and it is not inappropriate that his final appearance for Harlequins will be against Gloucester today in the raw, earthy arena of Kingsholm.

Moore, now 33 and coming to the end of his fifteenth season of senior rugby, had, earlier this season, anticipated the prospect of sustaining his career until 1997. "The conflicting and ever-increasing demands of international and league rugby and those of a responsible professional career are now impossible for me to reconcile," Moore said.

"On top of this, there are many other interests which I want to pursue but which I have had to neglect for a long time." Moore, a commercial litigation partner with the City firm of Edward Lewis and Co, who has managed to cram captaincy of the Harlequins alongside his legal duties and the England career that has brought him 58 appearances since 1987, hopes to bring down the curtain on a controversial career in the grand manner — at the World Cup final in June.

His going — the second confirmed retirement of a World Cup squad member, after Dewi Morris — will be applauded by his many detractors, those who have been offended by his eloquent criticism of rugby union's administration, his hard-line stance on rewards for players, his snarling provocation of opponents, notably the French, and his contemptuous dismissal of others, such as the Scots last month, with whose tactics he disagrees.

Yet none will deny his self-imposed, sometimes self-centred drive to become the best hooker in the country, to achieve on behalf of himself and his colleagues. It was apparent when he was a little-known student at Nottingham University playing for the local club and made his initial representative steps at under-23 level with England: coincidentally, his rival on tour in Italy in 1982, Mike Dixon, plays his final league game for Fylde today.

Moore: provocative

Moore forced his way to the front then, as he has done ever since. He could not bear to lose, to be second-best, and part of his drive to succeed, since making his international debut against Scotland eight years ago has been the belief that the No 2 shirt was his and should be relinquished only when he chose. Geoff Cooke, as England manager in 1993, played on this assumption to bring the best out of Moore in a season when England's superiority was flagging.

This season with Harlequins has been difficult and Moore has acknowledged that he underestimated the job of captaincy: "I had to tell the team and supporters before the match at Gloucester," he said. "If Harlequins went down and I made my decision public in those circumstances, I might be accused of deserting a sinking ship."

That, though, would be out of character. Time and again, Moore has looked adversity in the eye and, more often than not, spat in it. He has revelled in the adversarial challenges presented both by his career and his "hobby": he readily identifies with the rough-hewn wits who make up the Gloucester Shed. They, in return, may not like him but they will respect his final appearance and that is all he has ever sought.

Young pretenders have chance to strike first blow

By David Hands

BRIAN MOORE'S decision to retire from senior rugby brings yet another nuance to the final round of Courage Clubs Championship matches this afternoon. It forces upon the national team management the question of the next England hooker, assuming that, at 35, Graham Dawe's days are also numbered.

Two prime contenders meet at Welford Road, where Leicester endeavour to clinch the league title at Bristol's expense. Mark Regan, who wears the No 2 jersey for Bristol, was part of England's preliminary World Cup squad this season and goes with England A to Australia next month as first choice ahead of Gareth Adams, the Bath youngster, who has converted from flanker.

However, Richard Cockerill, of Leicester, has also flirted with representative honours without nailing a place in the A or emerging players teams. His zeal to join Graham Rowntree and Darren Garforth, his front-row colleagues, in the pursuit of senior honours will add spice to an encounter that Leicester believe will regain them the league trophy for the first time since 1988 and break a four-year monopoly by Bath.

Shorn of five international players, though, they will not take it for granted. Though they have yet to lose a league game at home to Bristol, they lead only 5-4 overall.

"If Leicester want the league title, they are going to have to earn it," Brian Hanlon, the Bristol director of rugby, said, though his side will be without Kyran Bracken, the England scrum half having withdrawn with the disc problem that has plagued him for a month.

If Leicester win, or even draw, then the result of Bath's game against a Sale team without Paul Turner will not matter. If Northampton, at the foot of the first division, win or draw at West Hartlepool, the result of the match at Kingsholm between Gloucester and Harlequins — where Moore will end his club career against Phil Greening, the England colt — certainly will matter in the scramble to avoid the one relegation place.

In the second division, the battle to avoid the drop is even tighter. Coventry are down, but one of six clubs could join them. Were Coventry to beat their old rivals from Moseley, they could pull them down too, while Nottingham, a third Midlands club, must beat Waterloo to survive.

In Wales, the Heineken League retains a certain morbid interest. Barring the most freakish of results, Cardiff will take the title, but Dunvant, in the west, and Abertillery, in the east, seek to avoid the drop with Pontypool. As it happens, Swansea, Dunvant's near-neighbours, who may have the Swalec Cup final — at Cardiff next Saturday — on their minds, entertain Abertillery; Dunvant, who staved off relegation last season only on the final weekend, must beat Newbridge.

If the Welsh seek inspiration, they may find it at Stradey Park, Llanelli, tomorrow. Wales Under-19s play Scotland, hoping to conclude the season unbeaten. True, their first nibble at the Fira youth tournament, in Bucharest, was not altogether successful, but that was a mixed age team, whereas the youth XV that will take the field tomorrow has beaten Italy, France and England.

BARRY GREENWOOD

Tuigamala looks forward to today's encounter with an old friend and the advent of summer rugby league

Tuigamala a centre of attraction

Christopher Irvine reveals how Wigan made Inga the winger a more polished player

The All Blacks never saw the best of Va'aiga Tuigamala in his rugby union days as a dump truck on the wing. When Wigan captured the Samoan, they re-tuned him as a centre and produced a mobile and versatile runabout, who is devastating in open play.

Craig Innes, a former New Zealand team colleague, has the unenviable task at Wembley today of trying to immobilise the "big black bus", as the French dubbed him. "You see tacklers go for Inga's shoulders and they are brushed off like flies," Innes said. "You've just got to be brave, go low and hang on." This head-on clash between players who were friends as schoolboys in Auckland is a crucial one.

When Doug Laughton, the Leeds manager, went to see New Zealand play the United States in the 1991 World Cup, it was to assess Tuigamala, but it was Innes — "amazing, a league centre playing union" — that he signed.

Tuigamala was a willing convert to rugby league two years later, after an ill-starred All Blacks' tour, partly due to his friend's influence. "What I thought was that Inga had probably been at his best in union at 19," Innes said. "It was a heck of a talent he had, but out on the wing he was simply stepping over people — and then there was the weight he was carrying."

When Tuigamala arrived at Wigan in January last year, after a good Samoan-style Christmas, he appeared bloated and sluggish. The new signing, who will be paid £400,000 over five years, was marched to the gymnasium and also made to run up and down the 500 feet of steps in the Japanese gardens at Rivington Pike.

The application, mental toughness, insatiable appetite for weight-training and learning ball skills he has now were not apparent during his union career.

"I know I can go a lot further," Tuigamala said. "I've only shown bits and pieces of my ability. I'm at the stage where I'm comfortable what I'm doing, but I'm looking forward to training a lot harder in the off-season."

The assets Tuigamala brought to Wembley last year were raw strength and power in the tackle. There was little of the nimbleness, vision, timing and the subtlest of handling skills that makes him the nearest equivalent in the domestic game to Mal Meninga, the former Australian captain. Wigan T-shirts now proclaim him: "The eighth wonder of the world."

Tuigamala is promising to cut down from from 16st 11lb to 15st 7lb for the switch to a summer season with the advent of the Super League next March. "I've fought through the mud and learned, but summer will suit me. The firmer pitches are going to be hard on the joints, so the least I can do for my body is to lighten it. It can be done." As for his duel with Innes: "It's a privilege to play against him; a great player, a great tackler," Tuigamala said.

"It will be eyeball to eyeball for 80 minutes and best of mates at the end," Innes said.

An elephant gun might also come in handy.

IN BRIEF

Cooke falls just short of claiming gold medal

ALAN COOKE had to be content with the silver medal for the second successive year at the Commonwealth table tennis championships in Singapore yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). After upsetting the seedings in the men's singles semi-finals, he was beaten in the final in four games by Chan Kong Wah, of Hong Kong.

Cooke, the No 4 seed, made a fine recovery in the morning to beat the former world semi-finalist and No 2 seed, Lo Chuen Tsung, 19-21, 21-19, 16-21, 21-17, 21-11 after being within sight of defeat in the fourth game. In the evening, however, Cooke could not cope with the superb forehand loops of Lo's compatriot, Chan, who, at the age of 33, won the biggest title of his career.

Carl Prean had also earlier lost to Chan, but there was consolation when Prean and Andrew Eden won the men's doubles title. Lisa Lomas, of England, was beaten in straight games in the women's singles semi-finals.

Top flight Scots

Squash: Scotland's women returned to the top four of European nations for the first time in a decade yesterday with a 3-0 win over Sweden in qualifying group A of the European team championship in Amsterdam. It assured them of second place behind England in pool one and a place in today's crossover semi-finals. England's defence of both titles continued with wins by their women over Ireland and men over France. The Scottish men drew 2-2 with Germany.

Shaw showdown

Bowls: Norma Shaw, of England, the defending Atlantic Rim singles champion, will meet the current league leader, Jo Peacock, of South Africa, in a ninth-round match at Durban this morning. Shaw will also have to defeat Pat Fisher, of Spain, and Val Stead, of Jersey, to stand any chance of retaining her title.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago 6 Cincinnati 5 (11 inns); Philadelphia 6 St Louis 2; [illegible] San Francisco [illegible]; Colorado 8 New York [illegible]; Montreal [illegible] Pittsburgh 1; San Diego [illegible]

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 7 Oakland [illegible] Chicago 4; Minnesota 7 Baltimore [illegible] Cleveland [illegible]; Texas 6 Seattle 3 [illegible]

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Play-offs (first games in best-of-five series): Eastern Conference: [illegible] Cleveland [illegible] Atlanta 82. Western Conference: [illegible] Houston 100 [illegible]

BOXING

YORK HALL, Bethnal Green: British super-middleweight championship: Sam [illegible] Southern area heavyweight [illegible] Welter [illegible]

BOWLS

DURBAN: Perm Atlantic Rim women's outdoor championships: Sixth round: Singles: Shaw bt Nolan 25-24; Peacock bt Jones 25-24; Swerdlow bt Barber 25-24; Fisher bt Martel 25-20; Joubert bt de Abelle 25-17; Marwell bt Stead 25-24. Fours: England bt Ireland 22-9; South Africa bt Wales 20-19; United States bt Israel 21-12; Guernsey bt Spain 32-17; Namibia bt Argentina 26-10; Scotland bt Jersey 23-18.

FOOTBALL

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Wycombe Wanderers 3 West Ham United 1

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Wimbledon 0 Tottenham Hotspur 3; Watford 1 Oxford United 1

DOHA, Qatar: World youth championships. Final: Argentina 2 Brazil 0. Third-place play-off: Portugal 3 Spain 2

Thursday's late results

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Stevenage 4 Altrincham 2; Woking 1 Welling 1; Kidderminster 1 Stafford 2

UNIBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Curzon Ashton 2 Warrington 4

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Bashley 1 Erith and Belvedere 0; Havant 0 Newport 0

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: St Albans 3 Dulwich 2; Sutton Utd 1 Slough 1

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Ipswich 1 Chelsea 1

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool 1 Sheffield Utd 0; Rotherham 0 Derby 2. Second division: Hull 1 Sheffield Wed 2; Port Vale 4 Bradford 1

HELLENIC LEAGUE: First division: [illegible] 1 [illegible] 2

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: West Midlands Police 0 Rocester 1

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Dartford 1 Ramsgate 1; Deal 4 [illegible] 2; Slade Green 0 [illegible] 4; Tunbridge Wells 2 Greenwich 0

FRIENDLY MATCH: [illegible] 2 Brazil 4 [illegible]

GOLF

PARIS: Paris tournament: Two-round scores (fourballs and foursomes; GB and Ire unless stated): 129: C Montgomerie and [illegible] Woosnam [illegible] 130: [illegible] 131: R Burns and C Mitchell [illegible] 132: [illegible]

ICE HOCKEY

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Group A (in Gävle): Italy 2 Switzerland 2; Canada 5 Germany 2; US 4 Czech Republic 2. Group B: Sweden 5 Austria 0 (in Stockholm)

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Ottawa 6 Tampa Bay 1; Chicago 5 Dallas [illegible]; Winnipeg 4 Detroit [illegible]; Edmonton 2 St Louis 2 (OT)

REAL TENNIS

SEACOURT, Hayling Island: Oracle British women's open championships: Second round: S Jones bt M Pigott 6-0 6-1; P [illegible] bt M Briggs [illegible]

ROWING

WINGFIELD SCULLS: 1, P Haining (Auriol Kensington) 21min 1sec; 2, G Pooley [illegible] 21.36; 3, [illegible] (Tideway Scullers)

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield 53 Exeter 43

SQUASH

AMSTERDAM: European team championships: Men: Group A: Pool 1: Sweden 4 Ireland 0; Sweden 3 France 1; England 4 Ireland 0. Pool 2: Finland 4 Holland 0; Finland [illegible] Scotland 1; Holland 2 Germany 2. Group B: Pool 1: Wales 4 Denmark 0. Pool 2: Spain [illegible] Greece [illegible]. Pool 3: Belgium 4 Liechtenstein 0; Austria 4 Portugal 0; Belgium 4 Portugal 0; Austria 4 Liechtenstein 0. Pool 4: Italy 4 Luxembourg 0; Switzerland 4 Czech Republic 0; Switzerland 4 Luxembourg 0; Italy 4 Czech Republic 0. Women: Group A: Pool 1: Sweden 2 Ireland 1; England 3 Scotland 0; England 3 Sweden 0; Scotland 2 Ireland 1. Pool 2: Holland 2 Finland 1; Germany 3 France 0; Germany 2 Finland 1; Netherlands 3 France 0. Group B: Pool 1: Wales 3 Czech Republic 0; Austria 3 Czech Republic 0; Switzerland 3 Portugal 0; Wales 3 Portugal 0. Pool 2: Italy 2 Belgium 1. Pool 3: Austria 2 Switzerland 1. Pool 4: Denmark 3 Norway 0; Spain 3 Italy 0; Denmark 3 Belgium 0; Spain 3 Norway 0.

TABLE TENNIS

SINGAPORE: Commonwealth championships: Men: Semi-finals: Chan Kong Wah (HK) bt C Prean (Eng) 6-21, 21-12, 21-14, 21-18; A Cooke (Eng) bt Lo Chuen Tsung (HK) 19-21, 21-19, 16-21, 21-17, 21-11. Final: Chan Kong Wah bt Cooke 16-21, 21-11, 21-19, 21-16

Women: Semi-finals: Chai Po Wa (HK) bt L Lomas (Eng) 21-9, 21-19, 21-17; Jing Jun Hong (Sing) bt Chan Tan Lui (HK) 21-11, 13-21, 21-18, 21-19. Final: Chai Po Wa bt Jing Jun Hong 21-14, 21-12, 23-21.

TENNIS

MONACO: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt G Schaller (Austria) 4-6, 7-6, 7-5; A Gaudenzi (It) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 7-6, 6-2; B Becker (Ger) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 6-2, 7-5.

BARCELONA, Spain: Women's tournament: Quarter-finals: K Nowak (Pol) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-3, 6-1; A Coetzer (SA) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 6-2, 7-5; I Majoli (Cro) bt I Gorrochategui (Arg) 6-3, 6-0; A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt A Grossman (US) 6-3, 7-5.

SEOUL: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: G Rusedski bt A Volkov (Russ) 7-5, 3-6, 7-5; K Carlsen (Den) bt T Ho (US) 6-3, 7-6; P Bing (China) bt A Mronz (Ger) 4-6, 7-6, 7-5; L Rehmann (Ger) bt P Wekesa (Ken) 6-3, 6-4.

DAVIS CUP: Euro/African zone: Group three (zone B): Group A: Malta 3 Kenya 0; Cyprus 3 Ethiopia 0. Group B: Algeria 3 Zambia 0; Turkey 3 Sudan 0

YACHTING

BOC CHALLENGE: Solo round the world race: Overall winner: Scela Calberson (C Auguin, Fr) 121day 17hr 11min. Final leg (Punta del Este to Charleston). 24.20:17. Other positions (at 08:00 GMT yesterday with miles to Charleston): Class one: 2 equal, Coyote (D Scully, US), Hunter's Child (S Pettengill, US) 644; 4, Vendee Enterprises (J van den Heede, Fr) 692; 5, Novell South Africa (JJ Provoyeur, SA) 915. Class two: 1, True Blue (D Adams, Aus) 819; 2, Kodak (G Soldini, It) 1,053; 3, Newcastle Australia (A Nebauer, Aus) 2,006; 4, Jimroda II (N Vaughan, GB) 2,033; 5, Cornwall (R Davis, GB) 2,527

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer South **East-West game** **Rubber bridge**

North:
♠ 7 5 4
♥ 8 3
♦ Q 10 6 3
♣ J 10 7 6

West:
♠ 10
♥ A Q 10 7
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ A 5 4 2

East:
♠ A 2
♥ K J 9 6 2
♦ 9
♣ K Q 9 8 3

South:
♠ K Q J 9 8 6 3
♥ 5 4
♦ A K J 5
♣ —

This was the auction:

S	W	N	E
2♠ (1)	Pass	2 NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

(1) Acol Two Bid.

Contract: Four Spades by South Lead: Ace of clubs

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge Correspondent

Four Spades made easily. A diamond lead would have set up a ruff to beat it and East-West were further discomfited when they saw that they could make Six Hearts. Where did the fault lie?

South undoubtedly chose a good moment to open an Acol Two. Classically, that is described as showing "a hand of power and quality". South certainly has the power, but, in my view, does not quite have the quality. However, if you wait for the requirements that the high priests of Acol need for a Two opening, a good card holder might get only one a month.

I think that West was correct to pass Two Spades. He has a defensive hand and it is not particularly likely that his side has a good enough fit to outbid the opponents at adverse vulnerability.

The fault lies with East. Admittedly, if the North-South cards were a misfit, East-West might be going for a penalty, but, nevertheless, the offensive strength of East's hand makes it obligatory for him to bid Three Hearts, in case his side has a fit. With a suit of similar strength but with a 2-5-3-3 shape, it would be correct to Pass.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge every day in the sports pages of The Times.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Whiteley wins

Andrew Whiteley, the international master from London, has scored one of the best results of his life, winning the 5th Cafe Baroque international tournament. Whiteley owed his victory to his broad strategy and resilience in bouncing back after [illegible] early defeats.

White: Whiteley

Black: Baker

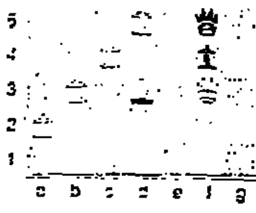
Cafe Baroque, April 1995

King's Indian Defence

[illegible]

Black resigns

Diagram of final position

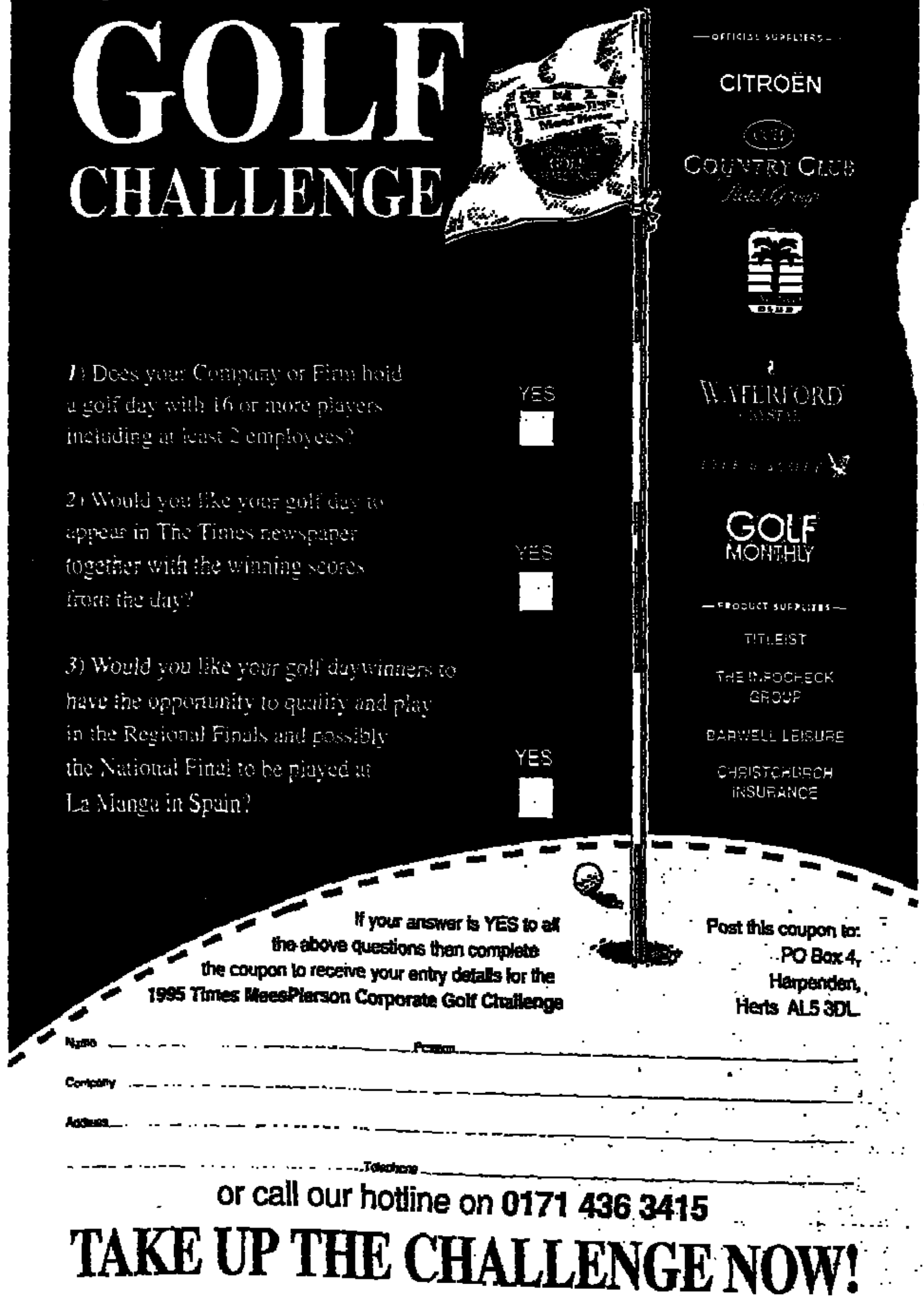


☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess every day in the sports pages of The Times.

5th Cafe Baroque International

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1 Whiteley	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6
2 Shaw	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3 Fozer	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4 Dive	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5
5 Muir	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6 Holland	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7 McDonald	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8 Beaumont	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	4
9 Baker	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	1	[illegible]
10 Toler	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]

In the above crosstable, 1 is a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss.



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Saturday portrait: **David Lloyd** by Stuart Jones, tennis correspondent

Basic marketing sense designed to bring net improvement to game

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

David Lloyd once said that the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) would never hire him "because they know I would sack half of them". The defiance in the statement is both characteristic of the irascible Lloyd and, in view of his present status, bulging with irony.

On Monday, Lloyd, 47, will be put in charge officially of the LTA's flagship, the Great Britain Davis Cup team, ending, the governing body trusts, a barrage of acrimonious accusations and, the rest of the nation's tennis lovers will hope, a downward spiral of failure that has lasted for four years.

Lloyd, a fierce critic of the LTA's profligate strategies, expressed surprise when, in January, he was offered the post about to be vacated by Bill Knight. He was also delighted. In accepting the invitation, he fulfilled one of his own plans — and they have always been on a grand scale.

He started work helping his father to sell tennis dresses to the local folk in Uganda and Zimbabwe. The company he founded 15 years ago has a market value of £115 million and is considered to be one of the largest sport and leisure groups in Europe.

The foundations of David Lloyd Leisure were built, with the financial backing of Slazenger, at Heston and Sutton, in outer London. The empire now features 11 clubs, ranging from Hampshire to Renfrewshire, and is ever expanding. Ventures in another five locations are planned to be completed within the next year.

The company has also taken over the management and operation of Roger Taylor's tennis centre at Val do Lobo, in Portugal. Nobody can find fault with Lloyd's business acumen. He is as sharp as a needle and he has his own ideas about how the LTA's money should be spent.

If it had been his responsibility, Lloyd would have directed the huge funds annually generated by the All England championships at Wimbledon towards a wider target. The LTA's job, he feels, is to promote the game of tennis as a whole and not merely the cause of the leading competitors.

Like Tony Pickard, Knight's predecessor as the Britain Davis Cup captain, Lloyd is convinced that quality will arise from quantity. "The only way we are going to make tennis bigger and better in this country is to get people who have never played before playing the game," Lloyd said.

He speaks from personal experience. He recalls that his father, "who later became a coach because he likes the game more than any man I have ever met", was accustomed to spending all day at the local club. All three of his sons — David, John and Tony — became professionals.

John, more placid and genial by nature, was the last Briton to reach the final of a men's grand slam event, the Australian Open, at the end of 1977. He lost in five sets to the late Vitas Gerulaitis, but, during his career, he recorded victories over a trio of Wimbledon champions — Bjorn Borg, John Newcombe and Stan Smith.

> 'The only way we will improve is to get people who have never played before to play'

David, though the junior Wimbledon champion in 1965 and the runner-up the following year, was not naturally as talented, but he made the most of his more limited gifts. Through iron will and steely resolution, he beat Jimmy Connors and Ilie Nastase, both of whom were ranked No 1 in the world.

Together, the brothers gained a rare distinction. Seventeen years ago, with John playing in the singles with Buster Mottram and David partnering Mark Cox in the doubles, they reached the final of the Davis Cup.

Britain had not done so for 41 years and, in view of the present lowly status, will not be in a position to do so again until at least the next century.

Five successive defeats have left the team in group two of the Euro-African zone and Lloyd warns that the change in fortunes may be neither rapid nor extensive. "I can't make players world champions," he said. "All I can do is get the best out of them and raise them to a higher level."

He has already indicated that the responsibility will be carried by inexperienced youngsters. Jeremy Bates, the nation's No 1, has retired from Davis Cup competition. Mark Petchey, the No 2, has lost his past eight singles rubbers, a dismal sequence that resulted in him being omitted from the tie in Slovakia this weekend.

Chris Wilkinson, the No 3, was selected, but dropped from the quartet. Danny Sapsford, the No 4, was kept in reserve. The line-up was formally announced by Knight, but there can be little doubt that Lloyd was consulted and had an input in decisions made plainly with the long-term future in mind.

One of Lloyd's great strengths is appreciating and developing youthful promise. He has nurtured James Baily, the Australian Open junior champion of 1993, Tim Henman, the new leader of the Davis Cup team at the tender age of 20, and Jamie Delgado, who is considered the brightest of the nation's teenagers. By comparison, the LTA, with enormous resources, has unearthed virtually nobody.

Lloyd was not certain whether he should travel to Bratislava with his prospective pupils. He wanted to cast an eye over them, but not a shadow over Knight. Such reticence is not typical of a man who freely speaks his mind, not always with consideration, and is regarded as ruthless. He does not suffer fools gladly. He does not suffer them at all.

"If I see a coach at one of the clubs giving a bad lesson," he said, "I will go mad at him. I have gone around some of the junior tournaments in Britain and watched coaches knocking up with the kids. They have no purpose. They just hit the ball with no discipline.

"If you have ever asked Sue Barker [the winner of the French Open in 1976] about what she learned with Arthur Roberts, I'm sure she would have told you that, if she didn't hit the first two or three balls in, Arthur would have told her to go home. That is discipline."

The dedication displayed by Chris Evert, the former wife of Lloyd's brother, John, made an equally profound impact. He remembers her flying from Los Angeles, travelling to one of his clubs and "not leaving until she had hit a thousand balls where she wanted to hit them". He will not be able to instil a similar commitment in the national representatives.

Under the terms of his three-year contract, they are effectively being loaned to him for six weeks a year. For the rest of the time, they will be advised by their personal coaches.

Conveniently, perhaps, Lloyd cannot wholly be blamed should the losing sequence continue. As he points out, more than half of the Davis Cup ties are staged nowadays on clay, a slow surface that is largely alien to domestic players. "Our lack of experience has been our downfall for the past 20 years," he said.

An exception to the inability to adapt to clay successfully is Miles Maclagan, who made his Davis Cup debut yesterday with Lloyd's blessing. "Miles is built like a bull," Lloyd said. "He is super-fit and capable of playing ten hard sets on clay. It is up to him now. He could shank a couple of shots in the knock-up and go to pieces or hit a couple of balls off the middle and play like God."

Mercifully, when Lloyd does take charge, the week after Wimbledon, against either Egypt or Monaco, Britain will be at home on the slick lawns of Eastbourne. The improbable relationship between the LTA and Lloyd, therefore, should start by ending the run of defeats.

Fresh cast tell same old story

FROM STUART JONES
IN BRATISLAVA

THE tale is hauntingly and dispiritingly familiar. For the sixth successive Davis Cup-tie, Great Britain ended the first day with a 2-0 deficit. As on a French carpet, Indian grass, Hungarian and Portuguese clay and, ignominiously, on home soil against Romania, they face almost certain defeat here against Slovakia.

Only once before in a competition that is 95 years old has Britain ever recovered from such an empty start. That was at home to Germany in 1930. History must be made, therefore, if Bill Knight is to end his career as captain with the most improbable of away victories.

That prospect has not yet been discounted. "If we win the doubles tomorrow," Knight predicted, "I still think we've got a good chance."

His optimism should not necessarily be dismissed as a token gesture of public support for his beleaguered team. It is based on the indefatigable spirit displayed by a pair of 20-year-old novices, Tim Henman and Miles Maclagan, who, on their first appearances in singles rubbers, both fought back from two sets down and kept more experienced opponents on court for more than three hours before yielding.

The battles of attrition were staged against an appropriate backdrop, which stretched beyond the rolls of barbed wire curled around the gates of the outdoor arena. The peaceful environment was twice disturbed by rehersals for the forthcoming VE Day celebrations. Precisely at noon, as Henman was struggling to contain Jan Kroslak during the initial stages of the second set, seven army helicopters buzzed over the football stadium next door. They were followed at regular intervals by a total of 34 low-flying jets, in tight formation.

Henman later stayed as close to an opponent ranked about 100 places above him. Recovering from being broken midway through the third set, he saved five break points at 4-4 before Kroslak conceded the set with a double fault to indicate that he, too, was susceptible to pressure. If only Henman had not hurried to build on his advantage.

Needlessly rushing as he served to open the fourth set, he lost both the game and, crucially, the initiative. With a forehand down the line, he saved a match point before going down 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Maclagan, seemingly overawed, was a break down in the third set before testing the composure of Karol Kucera, ranked more than 200 places above him, who plays in the same deceptively languid manner as his captain, Miroslav Mecir, one of the most elegant players to have graced the game.

"Once he settled down", Knight said of his second string, "he wasn't going to let anything go." As muscular power began to overcome fluency, Mclagan seized a turbulent third set and, from 2-5 down, levelled in the fourth. His own nerve then failed him and he was beaten 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

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Cream floats to top

FROM MEL WEBB IN PARIS

CAME the foursomes in the Tournoi Perrier de Paris yesterday and with them the inexorable rise to the top of the golfing vat of the créme de la crème. The two big-name partnerships in the PGA European Tour's only pairs competition had been in muted form on the first day, but now they came charging through the field to move to the top of the leaderboard.

After the four-balls on Thursday, Colin Montgomerie and Ian Woosnam's better-ball 64 had left them languishing in a comparatively modest share of seventeenth place. As though to prove that there is little substitute for experience and innate class, however, they produced a 65 yesterday to take the lead on 129, 11 under par.

Nobody was very surprised at the fact that Severiano Ballesteros and José Maria Olazábal were lurking a shot behind and sharing second place with Richard Boxall and Derrick Cooper.

Woosnam has had a variety of back and shoulder problems in recent times and it was the back that was troubling him at dank St Cloud as he and Montgomerie started indifferently, recovered in mid-round and finished by bagging two brace of birdies in the last five holes.

The unspoken rule of foursomes is "never say sorry". Montgomerie, though, was shamed into ignoring that when he put his partner into all sorts of bother with his tee shot on the short 13th. At the same time, he revealed the precision with which these people play.

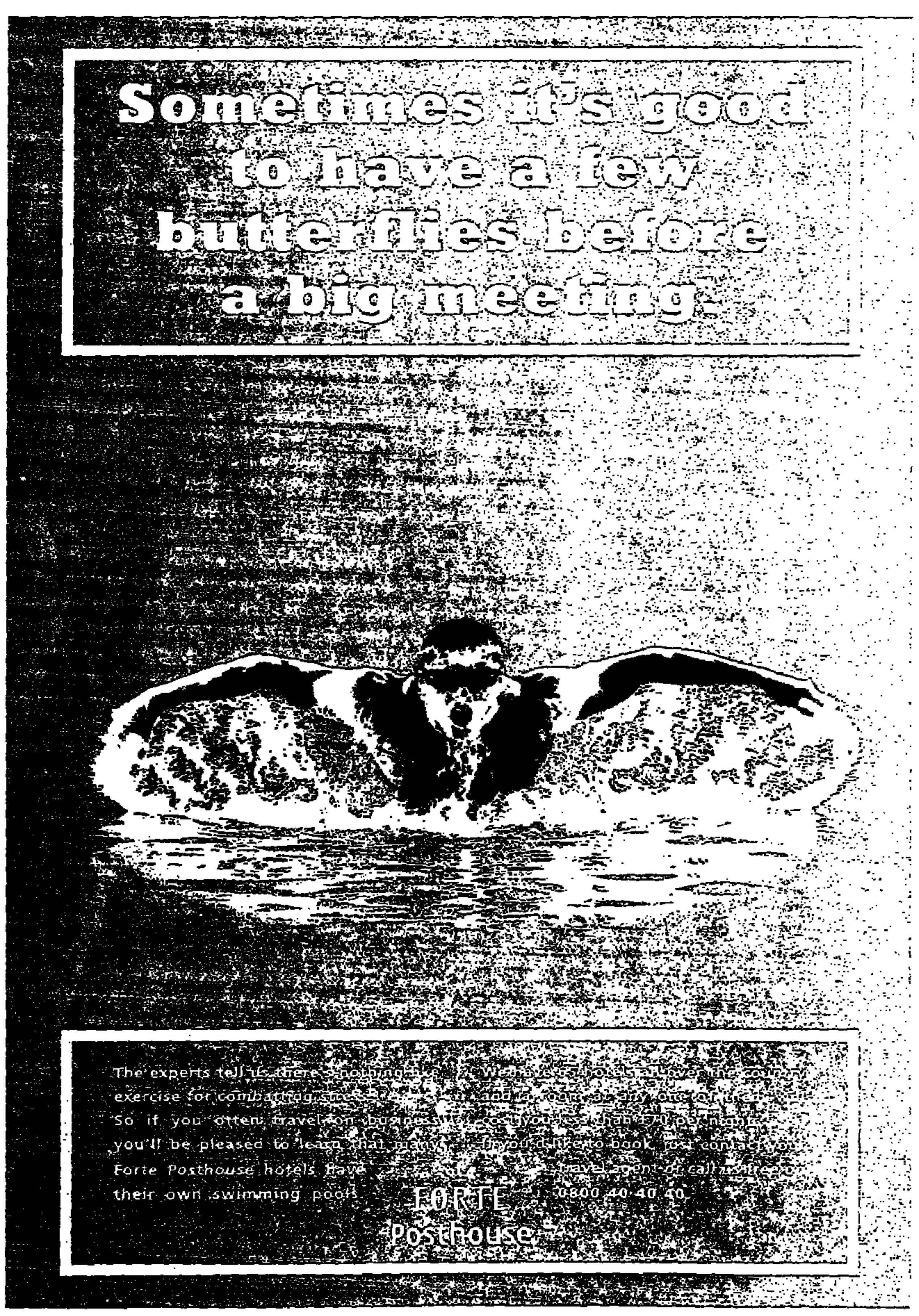
He was 189 yards from the flag, which, for Montgomerie, means an easy six-iron, but "easy" suddenly became "hard" as he put the ball through the green and into a bush. A few minutes later, they walked away after a double-bogey five.

"There was no excuse," Montgomerie said. "I just hit it 11 yards too hard. I know you're never meant to apologise to your partner in foursomes, but I was saying 'sorry' all the way up the next fairway. Woosie was very good about it, but he must have been muttering."

They regrouped after that and put a fine gloss on their round with birdies at the 5th and the last three holes.

Ballesteros and Olazábal also had a powerful finish as they picked up shots at the last two holes, while the Boxall-Cooper axis celebrated Boxall's 34th birthday with a 68 that contained five birdies.

Scores, page 34


Sometimes it's good to have a few butterflies before a big meeting.

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Cogent to capture Whitbread

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

MARTIN LYNCH

Cogent (right) can become the first chaser since Desert Orchid to defy more than 11 stone in the Whitbread

OUT with the old and in with the new would be a suitable theme for a fascinating card at Sandown today which sees the last feature steeplechase of the National Hunt season and the first Derby trial as the Flat moves up a gear.

In keeping with celebrations to mark a new year, punters will have to tread warily to avoid a painful hangover as they rely on jumping form which is beginning to fray at the edges and ponder what may come to pass during the summer months.

At this traditional turning point of the racing calendar, siding with horses prepared with a particular race in mind can pay handsome dividends rather than relying on the vagaries of the form book. With that rule in mind, **Cogent** gets the vote in the Whitbread Gold Cup.

Jeremy Glover pencilled in Cogent for this £100,000-added race — the richest steeplechase outside Cheltenham and Aintree — after his best chaser finished fourth in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury, where he was attempting to give the winner, One Man, 24lb.

A bloodless victory in the Rowland Meyrick Chase at Wetherby on Boxing Day was followed by a 12-week lay-off after which Cogent gave two stone to the progressive Strath Royal at Newcastle and finished an excellent second.

The 11-year-old chaser, winner of the Hennessy two years ago, is particularly suited to fast ground and jumps well for Chris Bonner, the useful amateur rider.

Glover said yesterday: "Cogent seems very well in himself and I think he has got a sound chance. He has never been round Sandown before, but he has jumped superbly in his last three races. He likes top of the ground, which is why we selected this race after the Hennessy. This has been the main objective for some time."

The statisticians will point out that only Desert Orchid (1988) has carried more than 11 stone to victory in the last ten runnings of the race and for those looking for a light-weighted alternative, Gaelstrom would come top of my list.

A dazzling array of Derby and Dante entries line up for the Thresher Classic Trial, a race won by John Gosden-trained runners for the last three years.

Torrential represents the Stanley House trainer from an original entry of three horses and the unbeaten Gulch colt undoubtedly has sound claims after victories at Doncaster and Ripon, where he was particularly impressive.

Recent homework on the Newmarket gallops is indicative of further improvement but, as a confirmed admirer of André Fabre, I must opt for **Tremplin.** Backing Fabre's cross-Channel raiders in recent years has produced a handsome profit and the Trempolino colt, out of a Mill Reef mare, is well regarded and holds a Derby entry.

While the two feature races offer an interesting challenge, the most profitable betting propositions are to be found in later races at the Esher meeting. **Cheyenne Spirit** showed plenty of early speed when winning at Newmarket and the step back in trip should not prevent Ben Hanbury's sprinter following up from a favourable draw in the Beefeater Rated Handicap.

Ihtiram will have his supporters in the Country Club Hotels Handicap after an eye-catching run at Newbury but preference is for **Holtye.** The Henry Cecil-trained handicap debutant looks very well treated on last term's second to Murajja, who won by 2½ lengths at Haydock recently off a pound higher mark.

At Leicester, **Yet More Roses**, trained by Lady Herries, has an excellent chance in the Butler Handicap after a good run from a bad draw at Kempton 12 days ago.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: YET MORE ROSES
(3.00 Leicester)
Next best: Cheyenne Spirit
(5.05 Sandown Park)

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

2.10 Bahamian Knight.
2.45 Young Hustler.
3.25 Mr Boston.
4.00 Torrential.
4.35 Desert Shot.
5.05 Double Quick.
5.35 HOLTYE (nap).

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.00 Torrential. 4.35 Desert Shot. 5.35 HOLTYE (nap).

Private Handicapper's top rating: 5.35 HOLTYE.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robertson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 PIZZA HUT MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O colts and geldings: £4,241: 5f 6yd) (12 runners)

101 (4) 0 ARCTIC ROMANCER 14 (A Al [illegible]) G Lewis 8-11 ... S Whitworth –
102 (6) BAHAMIAN KNIGHT (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 8-11 ... J Weaver –
103 (3) CA'D'ORO (Miss B Swire) G Balding 8-11 ... J Williams –
104 (11) ETTERBY PARK (Crowther Homes Ltd) M Usher 8-11 ... M Wigham –
105 (1) FIRST FIDDLER (The First Fiddler Partnership) W Jarvis 8-11 ... M Tebbutt –
106 (5) FOREVER NOBLE (The Gap Partnership) M Channon 8-11 ... R Hughes –
107 (2) FREELOADER (J Robb) J Hills 8-11 ... M Hills –
108 (8) GALAPINO (The Dartmoring Co) C Brittain 8-11 ... B Doyle –
109 (12) MR SPEAKER (D Allan) C Wall 8-11 ... L Newton (5) –
110 [illegible] MUJBIR (H Al Maktoum) B Hills 8-11 ... W Carson –
111 [illegible] NIKITA'S STAR (Nikita's Partners) D Murray Smith 8-11 ... L Dettori –
112 [illegible] WELSH MOUNTAIN (F Sainsbury) M Heaton-Ellis 8-11 ... Stephen Davies –

BETTING: [illegible] 9-4 Bahamian Knight, 3-1 Forever Noble, 5-1 Freeloader, 7-1 Galapino, 10-1 First Fiddler, [illegible] Arctic Romancer.

1994: SOLO PRIZE 9-0 Paul Eddery (4-11) G Lewis 8 ran

2.45 BREWER'S FAYRE SILVER TROPHY CHASE
C4
(Grade II: £15,625: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

[illegible] 1P2211 COULTON 21 (D,F,G,S) (M St Quinton) O Sherwood [illegible] ... J Osborne 90
[illegible] 544250 YOUNG HUSTLER 21 (CD,F,G,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies [illegible] ... C Llewellyn 94
[illegible] 221244 SOUTHOLT 22 (F,G,S) (S Hubbard) G Hubbard 7-11-0 ... A P McCoy [illegible]
[illegible] P44P03 YOUNG ALFIE 14 (B,S) (J Fanven) J Fanven 10-11-0 ... W Marston 52
[illegible] P-15242 PAPER STAR 14 (F) (Gallery Racing) M Muggeridge 8-10-9 ... B Powell 50

BETTING: 4-5 Coulton, 5-2 Southolt, 11-4 Young Hustler, 50-1 Paper Star, [illegible] Young Alfie.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

COULTON completed a double when beating Clay County [illegible] in the 10-runner grade II Martell Limited Handicap Chase at Aintree (2m [illegible], good to firm). Previously [illegible] beat Sybillin? a head in the 11-runner [illegible] Chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, soft) with SOUTHOLT [illegible] 4th. YOUNG HUSTLER [illegible] of 18 to Master Oats in the grade I Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase (3m 2f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start.

SOUTHOLT was around [illegible] 4th of 6 to Viking Flagship in the grade I [illegible] Melling Chase at Aintree (2m 4f, good to firm). YOUNG ALFIE 13l 3rd of 5 to Dees Cup Dawn in a handicap chase at Towcester (2m 110yd, good to firm). PAPER STAR 12l 2nd of 7 to Fivelinks Builds in a novice chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, firm).
Selection: SOUTHOLT

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
[illegible]	3	7	42.9	W Marston	4	15	26.7
A Turnell	7	17	41.2	R Dunwoody	30	119	25.2
Mrs M Reveley	6	16	37.5	C Maude	4	20	20
[illegible]	3	8	37.5	L Harvey	5	27	18.5
M Pipe	17	82	20.7	P Niven	3	17	17.6
[illegible]	23	154	14.9	P Hide	8	46	17.4

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Loder	4	13	30.8	W Ryan	12	49	24.5
J Gosden	19	83	22.9	Pat Eddery	43	241	17.8
J Berry	8	46	17.4	L Dettori	26	155	16.8
J Dunlop	15	90	16.7	W R Swinburn	20	135	14.8
[illegible]	6	37	16.2	M Hills	10	81	12.3
H Cecil	10	63	15.9	J Weaver	3	27	11.1

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Pontefract (first race 2.45), **Southwell** (AW, 2.30), **Windsor** (5.30), *Hexham* (5.45).

TUESDAY: Bath (2.00), **Nottingham** (2.15), *Ascot* (BBC, 5.30), *Kelso* (5.45).

WEDNESDAY: Ascot (BBC, 2.30), *Exeter* (2.15), *Huntingdon* (5.45), *Aintree* (6.00).

THURSDAY: Hamilton Park (2.20), **Salisbury** (2.00), **Wolverhampton** (AW, 2.10).

FRIDAY: Hamilton Park (2.15), **Newmarket** (C4, 2.00), *Bangor* (5.45), *Newton Abbot* (2.25), *Sedgefield* (6.00).

SATURDAY: Newmarket (C4, 1.55), *Thirsk* (2.20), *Haydock Park* (BBC, 2.15), *Hereford* (2.20), *Hexham* (6.00), *Plumpton* (5.40), *Uttoxeter* (2.40), *Warwick* (5.50).

SUNDAY: Newmarket (C4, 2.00), **Salisbury** (2.15).

Flat meetings in bold

3.25 WHITBREAD GOLD CUP
C4
(Handicap chase: £58,589: 3m 5f 110yd) (14 runners)

301 1P-F412 COGENT 42 (F,G,S) (Pall-mall Partners) J Glover 11-11-7 ... Mr C Bonner (5) 96
302 P-5011P DEEP BRAMBLE 44 (CD,G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 8-11-7 ... C Maude 95
303 P65320 ANTONIN 12 (F,G,S) (G Bailey Ltd) Mrs S Bramall 7-10-13 ... J Burke 94
304 F-51UPF ZETA'S LAD 21 (F,G,S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 12-10-12 ... D Gallagher 96
305 2/11F-13 GAELSTROM 44 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-5 ... D Bridgwater 89
306 2/6401F COUNTRY MEMBER 21 (C,G,S) (Mrs C Williams) A Turnell 10-10-4 ... L Harvey 90
307 6U1-05P USHERS ISLAND 70 (CD,F,G) (I Naylor) J Johnson 9-10-3 ... C Swan [illegible]
308 22331U MR BOSTON 12 (C,F,G,S) (M Oldham) Mrs M Reveley 10-10-1 ... P Niven 92
309 1-2443P GRANGE BRAKE 22 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-0 ... C Llewellyn 89
310 P-2230U SUPERIOR FINISH 21 (B,D,G,S) (G Henley) Mrs J Pitman 9-9-11 ... W Marston 94
311 231321 CACHE FLEUR 12 (V,F,G,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 9-9-10 ... R Dunwoody 86
312 4-4P600 FIGHTING WORDS 105 (C,F,G,S) (Pall-mall Partners) J Gifford 9-9-10 ... P Hide –
313 055/0PF TINRYLAND 21 (F,G) (M Buckley) N Henderson 11-9-7 ... M A Fitzgerald 88
314 4F-53P1 ABBOTSHAM 14 (F,G,S) (O Carter) O Carter 10-6-10 ... B Powell 52

Long handicap: Superior Finish 9-11, Cache Fleur 9-10, Fighting Words 9-10, Tinryland 9-7, Abbotsham 6-10.

BETTING: 9-2 Gaelstrom, 5-1 Country Member, 11-2 Cogent, 7-1 Mr Boston, 8-1 Deep Bramble, 10-1 Antonin, Cache Fleur, Superior Finish.

1994: USHERS ISLAND 8-10-0 C Swan (25-1) J Johnson 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

COGENT 2l 2nd of 5 to Strath Royal in a handicap chase at Newcastle (3m, good to firm). Previously, 11l 4th of 16 to One Man in the grade III Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft), with COUNTRY MEMBER (5lb better off) 11l 6th, DEEP BRAMBLE (3lb worse off) 7l 8th and FIGHTING WORDS (7lb better off) pulled up. DEEP BRAMBLE completed a double when beat SUPERIOR FINISH (4lb better off) 5l in the 11-runner grade II Agfa Limited Handicap Chase here (3m, soft) on penultimate start, with COUNTRY MEMBER (8lb better off) 42l 7th. ANTONIN's best effort this season came when 9l 2nd of 16 to Rough Quest in the Ritz Club Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, soft), with CACHE FLEUR (3lb worse off) a short-head 3rd, GRANGE BRAKE (1lb better off) 4l 4th and SUPERIOR FINISH (2lb worse off) 62l 12th. GAELSTROM 10¾l 3rd of 11 to Coulton in the Cathcart Challenge Cup Chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, soft). COUNTRY MEMBER beat Buckboard Bounce 1¾l in a 15-runner amateur riders' chase here (3m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. USHER'S ISLAND's best effort this season came when 39l 8th of 14 to Bradbury Star in the grade III Mackeson Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Beat ANTONIN (4lb better off) 2½l in this race last year (good), with FIGHTING WORDS (3lb better off) 7½l 4th, SUPERIOR FINISH (3lb better off) pulled up and ABBOTSHAM (3lb better off) pulled up. MR BOSTON beat Sheer Ability 2½l in a 5-runner handicap chase here (3m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. CACHE FLEUR beat Run Up The Flag 3½l in a 2-runner handicap chase at Chepstow (3m, firm).
Selection: USHERS ISLAND

4.00 THRESHER CLASSIC TRIAL
C4
(Group III: 3-Y-O: £42,636: 1m 2f 7yd) (8 runners)

401 (3) 1- BALLIOL BOY 184 (G) (W Said) H Cecil 9-10 ... W Ryan 75
402 (1) 4-02 LUSO 11 (S) (Maranzi) C Brittain 8-10 ... B Doyle 89
403 (8) 31330- PENTIRE 214 (G) (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 8-10 ... M Hills 93
404 (5) 1150- PRINCE OF INDIA 214 (F,G) (Sir Gordon Brunton) Lord Huntingdon 8-10 ... J Weaver 89
405 (7) 512- SINGSPIEL 203 (S) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 8-10 ... W R Swinburn 96
406 (4) 11 TORRENTIAL 24 (F,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-10 ... L Dettori 95
407 (2) 3-1 TREMPLIN 27 (D,S) (Prince Moulay [illegible]) A Fabre (Fr) 8-10 ... T Jarnet –
408 (6) 23412-1 TWO O CLOCK JUMP 14 (F,G) (P Lalemant) R Hannon 8-10 ... Pat Eddery [illegible]

BETTING: 6-4 Torrential, 7-2 Tremplin, 5-1 Balliol Boy, Singspiel, 8-1 Pentire, Two O Clock Jump, 10-1 others.

1994: LINNEY HEAD 8-10 L Dettori (9-4 fav) J Gosden 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

BALLIOL BOY beat Polydamas 1½l in a 13-runner maiden at Nottingham (1m, good). LUSO neck 2nd of 15 to Burning in a maiden at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). PENTIRE head and 2½l 3rd of 6 to [illegible] Open in a conditions race at York (7f, good to firm) on penultimate start. PRINCE OF INDIA 5¼l 7th of 28 to Don Corleone in a conditions race at Newmarket (7f, good) with PENTIRE 2l 10th. SINGSPIEL 8l 2nd of 6 to Celtic Swing in a conditions race at Ascot (7f, good to firm). TORRENTIAL completed a double when beating Heathyards Rock [illegible] in a 7-runner conditions race at Ripon (1m 2f, good to soft). TREMPLIN beat Fifty Four neck in an 8-runner conditions race at Longchamp (1m 2f, very soft). TWO O'CLOCK JUMP beat [illegible] in a 10-runner listed race at Kempton (1m, good to firm).
Selection: TORRENTIAL

4.35 TGI FRIDAY'S GORDON RICHARDS STAKES
C4
(Group III: £22,020: 1m 2f 7yd) (6 runners)

501 (6) 11413-1 DESERT SHOT 10 (D,F,G) (M Al Maktoum) M Stoute 5-8-10 ... W R Swinburn 97
502 (1) 530230- BLUSH RAMBLER 205 (G) (M Al Maktoum) M Stoute 5-8-10 ... W Ryan 96
503 (5) 5125-16 IONIO 28 (D,F,G) (The Chelsfield Co) C E Brittain 4-8-10 ... B Doyle 97
504 (2) 312110- MIDNIGHT LEGEND 231 (F,G) (Umm Qarn Racing) L Cumani 4-8-10 ... Pat Eddery [illegible]
505 (3) 1123,4-4 NICOLOTTE 10 (F,S) (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 4-8-10 ... M Hills 90
506 (4) 11 2423- PRINCE OF ANDROS 226 (D,F,G,S) (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 5-8-10 ... J Weaver 98

BETTING: 13-8 Desert Shot, 5-2 Midnight Legend, 5-1 Blush Rambler, [illegible] Ionio, [illegible] Nicolotte, [illegible] Prince Of Andros.

1994: SCRIBE 4-8-10 W Carson (11-2) J Gosden 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

DESERT SHOT beat Overbury a head in the 7-runner group III Earl Of Sefton Stakes at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to firm) with NICOLOTTE (2lb better off) 6½l 4th. BLUSH RAMBLER 3l 2nd of 5 to Florid in a conditions race at Haydock (1m 4f, soft). IONIO about 7½l 6th of 14 to Red Bishop in a conditions race at Sha Tin (Hong Kong) (1m 2f, [illegible]). MIDNIGHT LEGEND beat Pearl Kite 2½l in a 5-runner listed race at Goodwood (1m 6f, good to soft) on penultimate start. PRINCE OF ANDROS head and [illegible] 2nd of 12 to Muhtarram? in the group [illegible] Champion Stakes at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: DESERT SHOT

5.05 BEEFEATER RATED HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £7,654: 5f 6yd) (9 runners)

601 (2) 51140-2 LAGO DI VARANO 7 (B,D,G,S) (P Bashkar) J Berry 9-8 ... L Dettori 93
602 (1) 2100-0 SIGNS 6 (CD,G) (Richard [illegible]) R Hannon 9-6 ... Pat Eddery 67
603 (4) 14510-1 CHEYENNE SPIRIT 9 (D,F,G) (C Mauritzon) B Hanbury 9-5 ... W Ryan 96
604 (5) 332201- MUSICAL SEASON 175 (D,S) (P Savill) T Barron 9-1 ... M Hills 90
605 (7) 6224-01 NATYA 14 (D,F,G) (J [illegible]) M Channon 9-1 ... R Hughes 92
606 (8) 431020- TART AND A HALF 203 (D,F) (P Skipper) B Meehan 9-0 ... B Doyle [illegible]
607 (9) 0124-56 THAT MAN AGAIN 25 (D,F) (M [illegible]) G Lewis 9-0 ... A Whelan (5) 93
608 (6) 0120-20 DOUBLE QUICK 30 (D,G,S) ([illegible] Partners) M Johnston 8-4 ... J Weaver 96
609 (3) 313311 PORTEND 30 (D,G,S) (C Bowring) S Bowring 8-3 ... C Teague (5) 95

Long handicap: Portend 8-0.

BETTING: 5-2 Lago Di Varano, 11-4 Cheyenne Spirit, 7-2 Signs, 6-1 Natya, 8-1 Portend, 10-1 Double Quick, Musical Season.

1994: PETE AFRIQUE 9-0 [illegible]

5.35 COUNTRY CLUB HOTELS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £12,775: 1m 14yd) (15 runners)

1 (15) 16215-2 IHTIRAM 8 (D,G,S) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-7 ... W Carson 90
2 (2) 22100- ELA-ARISTOKRATI 182 (D,G) (Mrs [illegible]) [illegible] 9-6 ... W R Swinburn 80
3 (1) 01063-5 AXEMAN 11 (F) (The Winning Team) R Hannon 9-5 ... R Hughes 83
4 (7) 10140-0 CAM BOM BOM 11 (F,S) (J Smith) M Bell 9-3 ... M Fenton 87
5 (14) 31060-0 PERCY BRAITHWAITE 14 (F) (J [illegible]) M Johnston 9-0 ... W Ryan 86
6 (5) 01215-0 CAPTAIN'S DAY 24 (F,G) (M [illegible]) T Mills 9-0 ... Stephen Davies 85
7 (3) 21001- TWILIGHT PATROL 205 (F,S) (Cheveley Park Stud) R Hannon 8-13 ... L Dettori 91
8 (9) 40214- TE AMO 189 (G) (Family Ltd) R Akehurst 8-12 ... J Weaver 81
9 (13) 612- HOLTYE 200 (F) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-9 ... Pat Eddery [illegible]
10 (12) 14-0 NIGHT DANCE 14 (C,F) (G Wright) G Lewis 8-7 ... S Whitworth 85
11 (11) 321-0 OUT ON A PROMISE 28 (G) (Mrs [illegible]) G Wragg 8-4 ... M Hills 88
12 (6) 00035-1 ROCKFORCE 14 (F) (G Ward) M Channon 8-2 ... C Rutter 91
13 (10) 01-0 CUNTUS DECIMUS 14 (S) (Pertemps Ltd) Lord Huntingdon 8-1 ... A Whelan (5) 86
14 (5) 43-5 FLORIDANTE 12 (Lord Derby) [illegible] 8-0 ... Darren Moffatt (5) 86
15 (4) 36-3351 DANESOLO 9 (V,D,F) (The Dream Team) M Channon 7-8 ... N Adams 84

BETTING: 7-2 Holtye, 9-2 Twilight Patrol, 5-1 Ihtiram, 10-1 Ela-Aristokrati, 12-1 Axeman, Out On A Promise, Rockforce, 16-1 others.

1994: STASH THE CASH [illegible]

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Coulton to complete fine treble

SANDOWN PARK
C4

2.45: The best form shown by **Coulton** has been over two miles, notably when thwarting Clay County at Aintree, but Oliver Sherwood's rejuvenated jumper stays this trip. The fast ground will suit and he can complete a treble. Young Hustler is officially rated higher but is more of a stayer. Southolt jumped better than usual when finishing five lengths fourth to Viking Flagship at Aintree. Provided his jumping does not let him down, he will go close.

3.25 and 4.00: see above

4.35: Midnight Legend, Blush Rambler, who are making their seasonal debuts, and Ionio, sixth behind Red Bishop at Sha Tin earlier this month, would arguably prefer slightly further, while Prince of Andros is probably best on easier ground. **Desert Shot** showed a tremendous turn of foot to cut down Overbury at Newmarket ten days ago (Nicolotte fourth) and the acceleration of Michael Stoute's runner can make all the difference here.

Richard Evans

Baimbridge to collect

WITH Samantha Wallin joining Alison Dare on the injured list after her fall at Andoversford, Dick Baimbridge is getting short of riders, and has none qualified for the members' race at his local hunt, the **Berkeley**, today (Brian Beel writes).

Baimbridge, with 15 winners so far this season, saddles four at the meeting, and one, Giveitago, with Geoffrey Barfoot-Saint aboard, at Bitterley tomorrow.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Albrighton, Weston Park, 6 miles east of Telford (first race 2.00). **Atherstone:** Clifton-on-Dunsmore, 5m NW of Junction 18 of M1 (2.00). **Berkeley:** Woodford, 15m NE of Bristol (2.00). **Bilsdale:** Easingwold, 13m NW of York (2.00). **Fife:** Balcormo Mains, 3m NE of Leven (1.50). **Llangeinor:** Pyle, Margam Park (2.30). **Tiverton Staghounds:** Bratton Down, 10m N of South Molton (2.00). **West Norfolk:** Fakenham, inside NH course (2.00). **TOMORROW: Berks & Bucks:** Barbury Castle, 4m S of Swindon (2.00). **East Sussex & Romney Marsh:** Bexhill, 1m N of town (2.00). **Grove & Rufford:** Southwell, inside NH course (2.30). **Seavington:** Little Windsor, 4m S of Crewkerne (2.00). **West Midlands & Welsh Border:** Bitterley, 4m NE of Ludlow (1.00).

LEICESTER

THUNDERER

2.00 South Salem. 2.30 Stevie's Wonder. 3.00 Yet More Roses. 3.30 Just Lucky. 4.05 Hever Golf Rose. 4.40 In Camera. 5.10 Menshaar. 5.40 Tony's Fen.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 EBF WILLOUGHBY AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,106: 5f) (12 runners)

1 (10) ASTRAL'S CHANCE K Burke 9-0 ... M Fenton –
2 (4) AUSSIE M Tompkins 9-0 ... P Robinson –
3 (3) DORSPRING C Brittain 9-0 ... M Rimmer –
4 (11) FOREMAN W O'Gorman 9-0 ... Emma O'Gorman –
5 (6) 3 GHOSTLY APPARITION 22 J Upson 9-0 ... K Fallon –
6 (5) 45 PLEASURE TIME 24 C Smith 9-0 ... J Fortune –
7 (12) SILVERDALE KNIGHT K Hogg 9-0 ... A Daly (7) –
8 (8) SOUTH SALEM D Loder 9-0 ... G Carter –
9 (9) 0 TOPAGLOW 14 P Dalton 9-0 ... R Cochrane –
10 (7) WELVILLE P Makin 9-0 ... T Quinn –
11 (1) 0 HEIGHTS OF LOVE 22 M Saunders 8-9 ... R Price –
12 (2) KEY TO A MILLION R Hannon 8-9 ... J Reid –

9-4 South Salem, 9-2 Pleasure Time, 6-1 Key To A Million, 7-1 Dorspring, 8-1 Topaglow, 12-1 Ghostly Apparition, Heights Of Love, 14-1 others.

2.30 SIX HILLS HANDICAP (£4,104: 1m 3f 183yd) (13)

1 (1) 23-0 FAAL MARIO 22 Mrs J Ramsden 4-10-0 ... K Fallon 83
2 (11) 10-0 SUNDERLAND ECHO 37 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-13 ... J Fortune 88
3 (7) 1013 BENFLEET 12 (C,D,G,S) R Armstrong 4-9-13 ... R Price [illegible]
4 (4) 160- FARRINGDON HILL 232 (B,CD,F) W Hern 4-9-9 ... Paul Eddery 93
5 (13) 1302 SLMAAT 23 (D,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-8 ... T Quinn 94
6 (2) 60-0 TRIPLE TIE 12 (S) M Blanshard 4-9-5 ... J Reid 93
7 (9) 0-66 UN PARFUM DE FEMME 12 (D,F,S) J Pearce 4-9-4 ... G Bardwell 93
8 (3) 300- MIDYAN BLUE 154 (G) J Eustace 5-9-3 ... R Cochrane 96
9 (5) 4-00 ISMENO 19 S Dow 4-9-3 ... D Harrison 95
10 (6) 4341 CLIBURNEL NEWS 23 (CD,F,G) A Forbes 5-8-8 ... P Robinson 94
11 (12) 1122 STEVIE'S WONDER 80 (D,BF,G,S) M Ryan 5-8-8 ... G Carter 97
12 (8) 606- CHERRINGTON 222 G Wragg 3-7-13 ... F Norton 87
13 (10) 640- KINOKO 3 (CD,G,B) K Hogg 7-7-12 ... A Daly (7) 88

3-1 Slmaat, 9-2 Benfleet, 5-1 Cliburnel News, 6-1 Stevie's Wonder, 8-1 Faal Mario, 10-1 Farringdon Hill, Sunderland Echo, 12-1 others.

3.00 BUTLER HANDICAP (£4,206: 5f 218yd) (15)

1 (9) 01-0 HOW'S YER FATHER 12 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 9-10-0 ... Paul Eddery 93
2 (2) 0-00 JUST BOB 7 (D,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 6-9-9 ... J Fortune 92
3 (5) 4-00 MACS MAHARANEE 56 (D,F,G) P Felgate 8-9-5 ... G Hind 90
4 (1) 1-24 SAILORMAITE 24 (CD,G) S Bowring 4-9-3 ... S Webster 92
5 (10) 01-0 GALLOWS CORNER 14 (D,G) R Hannon 3-9-2 ... J Reid 89
6 (12) 100- AUGHFAD 208 (B,D,F,G,S) Mrs M McCourt 9-9-0 ... R Studholme (7) 88
7 (15) 00-4 YET MORE ROSES 12 (D,G) Lady Herries 4-8-13 ... T Ives 94
8 (4) 3-23 TATIKA 22 G Wragg 5-8-13 ... D Gibbs (7) 91
9 (6) -000 CRADLE DAYS 7 (F,G) R Spicer 6-8-13 ... J O'Reilly 94
10 (14) 0-45 JIGSAW BOY 21 (C,D,F,S) P Murphy 6-8-6 ... D Harrison 92
11 (13) -440 FIRST GOLD 8 (D,F,G,S) J Wharton 6-8-5 ... P Robinson 91
12 (7) -000 CAPTAIN CARAT 12 (D,F) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-5 ... K Fallon [illegible]
13 (11) -234 THE OLD CHAPEL 14 (B,D,S) B McMahon 6-8-3 ... F Norton 93
14 (8) 060- MANOR ADVENTURE 143 (G) P Dalton 5-8-0 ... J Bramhill (7) 91
15 (3) 600- BEZIRGAN 238 J Akehurst 4-7-7 ... G Bardwell 80

9-2 Tatika, 5-1 Yet More Roses, 6-1 How's Yer Father, 8-1 Gallows Corner, Sailormaite, 10-1 The Old Chapel, Aughfad, 12-1 others.

3.30 SAFFRON HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,510: 1m 8yd) (18)

1 (10) 410- MIHRIZ 204 (F) W Hern 9-7 ... Paul Eddery 92
2 (12) 3-30 YOUSH 22 M Jarvis 9-5 ... P Robinson 92
3 (6) 10- DIVINA MIA 240 (F) J Hills 9-2 ... M Henry (7) 90
4 (11) 301- HARDY DANCER 197 (F) G L Moore 9-1 ... B Rouse 88
5 (4) 43-0 BELLAS GATE BOY 14 Miss H Knight 8-12 ... B Thomson 89
6 (16) 46-5 ASTRAL INVADER 14 (F,S) M Saunders 8-12 ... R Price 94
7 (3) 042- SHINING EXAMPLE 185 P Makin 8-11 ... R Perham 95
8 (18) 505- EL DON 175 M Ryan 8-8 ... D Biggs 96
9 (8) 1-65 JUST LUCKY 74 (D,G) R Armstrong 8-6 ... J Reid 90
10 (2) 52-2 BLAZE OF SONG 21 R Hannon 8-4 ... T Quinn [illegible]
11 (13) -342 SHINEROLLA 12 Mrs J Ramsden 8-3 ... K Fallon 93
12 (7) 04-6 DELIGHTFUL DANCER 12 B Hills 8-3 ... D Harrison 89
13 (9) 05-4 NOBLE NEPTUNE 56 W Musson 8-1 ... G Hind 98
14 (14) 505- WANDERING MINSTREL 269 J Eustace 8-1 ... G Carter 91
15 (17) 3206 GOOD SO FA 56 (D,G) C Allen 8-0 ... M Baird (5) 90
16 (1) 3415 WATER HAZARD 65 (G) S Dow 7-12 ... F Norton 88
17 (5) 650- MARIPOSA GROVE 201 R Curtis 7-11 ... G Bardwell 88
18 (15) 230- EUPHYLLIA 176 Bob Jones 7-7 ... S Lanigan (7) 96

5-1 Shinerolla, 6-1 Astral Invader, Blaze Of Song, 7-1 Delightful Dancer, 8-1 Mihriz, 10-1 Bellas Gate Boy, 12-1 Hardy Dancer, 14-1 others.

4.05 LEICESTERSHIRE STAKES (Listed race: £12,139: 7f 9yd) (9)

1 (6) 404- YOUNG ERN 139 (C,D,F,G,S) S Dow 5-9-6 ... T Quinn 95
2 (4) 00-0 BAND ON THE RUN 10 (D,F,G,S) B McMahon 8-8-12 ... J Fortune 75
3 (2) 4-02 COOL JAZZ 12 (S) C Brittain 4-8-12 ... M Rimmer [illegible]
4 (9) 1-06 JAFEICA 10 (CD,G,S) R Hannon 4-8-12 ... R Perham 91
5 (8) 426- MISTLE CAT 169 (G,S) S Woods 5-8-12 ... W Woods 94
6 (3) 31-6 MOCCASIN RUN 10 (D,F,G) I Balding 4-8-12 ... R Cochrane 90
7 (7) 04-1 STAR TALENT 12 (D,G,S) D Elsworth 4-8-12 ... Paul Eddery 96
8 (1) 1-30 BRANSTON ABBY 11 (D,F,G,S) M Johnston 6-8-11 ... J Reid 96
9 (5) 106- HEVER GOLF ROSE 196 (D,F,G) T Naughton 4-8-11 ... D Holland [illegible]

9-4 Young Ern, 4-1 Star Talent, 5-1 Cool Jazz, 7-1 Moccasin Run, 8-1 Branston Abby, 10-1 Hever Golf Rose, Mistle Cat, 14-1 others.

4.40 REDMILE MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: £4,915: 1m 1f 218yd) (13)

1 (5) 5 TURNPOLE 10 Mrs M Reveley 4-9-10 ... J Fortune 70
2 (3) ROUFONTAINE 50J W Muir 4-9-5 ... D Holland –
3 (8) ALZOOMO H Cecil 3-8-6 ... A McGlone –
4 (4) 0- DESERT SPRING 304 P Harris 3-8-6 ... R Cochrane –
5 (11) GEORGE BULL W Hern 3-8-6 ... Paul Eddery –
6 (2) 0-6 HIGH PATRIARCH 12 J Dunlop 3-8-6 ... G Carter 94
7 (13) 5 HORESTI 10 C Brittain 3-8-6 ... M Rimmer 98
8 (10) 50-2 IN CAMERA 9 M Stoute 3-8-6 ... J Reid [illegible]
9 (7) 65- LORD PALMERSTON 221 P Cole 3-8-6 ... T Quinn 90
10 (9) REMAADI SUN J Gosden 3-8-6 ... G Hind –
11 (12) 0 SALEEL 10 A Stewart 3-8-6 ... M Humphries (5) –
12 (6) 320- TAJAR 192 D Morley 3-8-6 ... B Thomson 98
13 (1) 20- INNOCENCE 149 G Wragg 3-8-1 ... F Norton 89

5-2 In Camera, 4-1 Horesti, 5-1 Alzoomo, 6-1 Remaadi Sun, 8-1 George Bull, High Patriarch, 12-1 Lord Palmerston, 14-1 others.

5.10 REDMILE MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: £4,915: 1m 1f 218yd) (12)

1 (10) 5/0- PERSIAN SAINT 353 D Elsworth 4-9-10 ... A Procter (5) –
2 (3) 3 SUGAR MILL 10 Mrs M Reveley 5-9-10 ... J Fortune 79
3 (8) 2-2 GODWIN 10 H Cecil 4-9-5 ... A McGlone [illegible]
4 (5) 0-6 CHAHAYA TIMOR 19 P Cole 3-8-6 ... T Quinn 85
5 (12) DISCORSI G Wragg 3-8-6 ... D Gibbs (7) –
6 (2) MENSHAAR J Gosden 3-8-6 ... G Hind –
7 (7) 0- SAHIL 255 D Morley 3-8-6 ... B Thomson –
8 (11) SAYYED ALRAQS M Jarvis 3-8-6 ... P Robinson –
9 (4) SHEPHERDS REST S Mellor 3-8-6 ... T Sprake –
10 (9) 3-0 TIME LEADER 9 M Stoute 3-8-6 ... D Holland 85
11 (1) 520- HAGWAH 254 B Hanbury 3-8-1 ... Paul Eddery 87
12 (6) 0- HANIYA 201 J Dunlop 3-8-1 ... D Harrison –

6-4 Godwin, 5-2 Menshaar, 6-1 Discorsi, 8-1 Sahil, Sugar Mill, 12-1 others.

5.40 SPRING HANDICAP (£3,788: 1m 1f 218yd) (19)

1 (10) 325- TONY'S FEN 46J (D,F,G,S) D Elsworth 6-10-6 ... A Procter (5) –
2 (14) 505/ JAIRZINHO 1020 (F,G) P Hayward 6-9-9 ... S Raymont –
3 (19) 03-6 RUSHAWAY 30 R Hannon 4-9-8 ... R Perham 85
4 (8) 1-11 SOUTH EASTERN FRED 108 (D,F,G) H Collingridge 4-9-6 ... M Rimmer 98
5 (15) 0-03 PINK BRIEF 28 (D,G) M Ryan 4-9-5 ... M Baird (5) 97
6 (2) 000- INDERAPUTERI 182 (F) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-4 ... R Cochrane 85
7 (13) 00-0 GLITTER OF GOLD 18 S Williams 4-9-4 ... D Wright (3) 88
8 (7) 0-00 BESCABY BOY 10 (CD,F,G,S) J Wharton 9-9-1 ... M Birch 93
9 (18) 050- BOLD LOOK 303 P Harris 4-9-0 ... D Holland –
10 (6) 25-3 MAZIRAH 16 P Makin 4-9-0 ... T Quinn 86
11 (3) 606- CRACKING PROSPECT 268 B Millman 4-8-11 ... T Ives 90
12 (9) 300- PLINTH 190J (D,G) N Graham 4-8-7 ... Paul Eddery 86
13 (17) 60-0 EXPORT MONDIAL 23 P Burgoyne 5-8-5 ... B Rouse 86
14 (5) 04-0 ROCK THE BARNEY 23 (CD,G) P Burgoyne 6-8-5 ... D R McCabe (3) 90
15 (4) 600- PARISH WALK 2 K Hogg 4-8-1 ... A Daly (7) 85
16 (1) /400 CHEVELEY DANCER 5 D Wilson 7-8-0 ... G Carter 89
17 (12) 000- CATAWAMPUS 184 C James 4-8-0 ... C Hawksley (5) 97
18 (16) 000- PORTE BELLOCH 228 (G) C Nash 4-7-13 ... A Tucker [illegible]
19 (11) 6-00 TELEPHUS 44 (CD,F,G) B McMath 6-7-13 ... G Bardwell 88

3-1 South Eastern Fred, 5-1 Pink Brief, 6-1 Mazirah, 8-1 Rushaway, Tony's Fen, 10-1 Cracking Prospect, 12-1 Inderaputeri, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Loder, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; J Gosden, 20 from 76, 26.3%; H Cecil, 17 from 77, 22.1%; M Stoute, 11 from 57, 19.3%; S Bowring, 4 from 21, 19.0%; J Dunlop, 16 from 88, 18.2%.

JOCKEYS: J Reid, 14 winners from 91 rides, 15.4%; T Quinn, 19 from 131, 14.5%; K Fallon, 5 from 42, 11.9%; Paul Eddery, 11 from 95, 11.6%; M Fenton, 3 from 26, 11.5%; R Perham, 4 from 35, 11.4%.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Speedy Snaps Pride. 7.30 Primula Bairn. 8.00 Apollo Red. 8.30 Scalp 'Em. 9.00 Penny Parkes. 9.30 Backstabber.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

7.00 SARUMAN MAIDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,519: 6f) (9 runners)

1 -046 KREEF 5 (B) R O'Sullivan 9-6 ... W Woods 8
2 500- FRANS LAD 239 J Berry 9-4 ... P Roberts (7) 7
3 20-0 EMBEZZLER 12 (B) G Lewis 9-0 ... G Carter 4
4 4234 SHARP HOLLY 23 J Bennett 8-9 ... T Sprake 2
5 00-5 JESSICA'S SECRET 59 A Bailey 8-1 ... V Halliday (5) 5
6 3053 SPEEDY SNAPS PRIDE 18 P Cundell 7-11 ... S Lanigan (7) 3
7 006- SHANGHAI LIL 169 M Fetherston-Godley 7-10 ... F Norton 6
8 5500 LAWNSWOOD LADY 5 R Hollinshead 7-10 ... A Garth (5) 1
9 0036 HAPPY BRAVE 52 (B) P Cundell 7-8 ... N Kennedy 9

4-1 Embezzler, 9-2 Speedy Snaps Pride, 5-1 Kreef, 6-1 Frans Lad, 7-1 Shanghai Lil, 8-1 Happy Brave, 10-1 others.

7.30 STRIDER CLAIMING STAKES (£2,519: 5f) (8)

1 3240 LIFT BOY 5 (C,F,G) A Moore 6-9-2 ... Candy Morris 5
2 3310 PRIMULA BAIRN 7 (V,CD,G,S) J Mackie 5-9-1 ... G Carter 2
3 1110 ULTRA BEET 3 (CD,G) P Haslam 3-9-1 ... J Fortune 6
4 1420 LITTLE SABOTEUR 22 (B,D,F,G,S) P Makin 6-8-13 ... A Clark 1
5 3-03 DAILY STARSHINE 14 (B,D,S) J Berry 3-8-6 ... P Fessey (7) 4
6 2210 ONE FOR JEANNIE 87 (V,G) A Bailey 3-8-4 ... V Halliday (5) 8
7 0-00 HO MEI SURPRISE 56 B Preece 3-8-3 ... A Eddery (7) 3
8 535- SOUTHERN DOMINION 168 W G M Turner 3-8-3 ... D Scott (7) 7

5-2 Ultra Beet, 7-2 Little Saboteur, 4-1 Primula Bairn, 7-1 One For Jeannie, Daily Starshine, 8-1 Lift Boy, 12-1 others.

8.00 ELROND HANDICAP (£2,519: 7f) (12)

1 4560 WORDS OF WISDOM 5 (CD,G) C Cyzer 5-10-0 ... G Duffield 10
2 1351 PANTHER 17 (C,G,S) J Hetherton 5-9-10 ... N Kennedy 5
3 0-55 FIGHTER SQUADRON 70 (D,G,S) R Peacock 6-9-6 ... J Fortune 11
4 0032 APOLLO RED 23 (D,G,S) A Moore 6-9-5 ... Candy Morris 12
5 4525 TITANIUM HONDA 3 (B) C Brittain 4-9-5 (6ex) ... B Doyle 2
6 0324 HEATHYARDS LADY 14 (C,F,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-4 ... T Ives 6
7 4025 LA RESIDENCE 16 (D,G) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-2 ... S Sanders (3) 9
8 0006 ARAWA 14 (CD,G) D Marks 5-8-12 ... M Baird (5) 1
9 40-6 GARLANDE D'OR 25 J Spearing 3-8-5 ... G Hind 8
10 05-0 PRINCE RODNEY 112 (D,F,G,S) C Dwyer 6-8-3 ... F Norton 7
11 00-0 FITZROY LAD 25 (B) R Baker 5-8-0 ... S Raymont 4
12 5000 TACHYCARDIA 31 (C,F,G) R O'Sullivan 3-7-11 ... D Biggs 3

11-4 Titanium Honda, 7-2 Panther, 5-1 Fighter Squadron, 6-1 Apollo Red, 7-1 La Residence, 8-1 Words Of Wisdom, 10-1 others.

8.30 MAIREAD BYTHEWAY BIRTHDAY HANDICAP (£3,331: 1m 6f 166yd) (12)

1 1611 SHAKIYR 25 (C,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-12 ... L Dettori 1
2 3206 PREMIER DANCE 25 (CD,F,G) D Haydn Jones 8-9-9 ... S Drowne (5) 6
3 0226 RED WHIRLWIND 19 R O'Sullivan 5-9-8 ... W Woods 2
4 2220 SCALP 'EM 73 (C,F,G) P Evans 7-9-4 ... J Fortune 4
5 0-10 EPICA 42 (B,CD,G) A Bailey 4-9-3 ... J Carroll 7
6 1100 JARAAB 12 (V,G) G Lewis 4-8-13 ... S Whitworth 12
7 4445 AWESTRUCK 12 (C,F,G,S) B Preece 5-8-10 ... G Duffield 3
8 0/2-5 SURE PRIDE 16J A Moore 7-8-7 ... Candy Morris 8
9 0310 CHILD STAR 19 (B,C,G,S) D Marks 6-8-6 ... M Baird (5) 11
10 0253 NOTHING DOING 28 W Musson 6-7-13 ... N Adams 5
11 0-40 MINT A MILLION 19 M Blanshard 4-7-12 ... F Norton 9
12 0/0- SULTAN'S SON 145J (F) K Bridgwater 9-7-8 ... M Henry (7) 10

3-1 Shakiyr, 4-1 Jaraab, 5-1 Premier Dance, 6-1 Epica, 8-1 Child Star, Awestruck, 10-1 Sure Pride, 12-1 others.

9.00 MORDOR SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,588: 5f) (4)

1 12 PENNY PARKES 22 (D,F) J Berry 8-12 ... J Carroll 2
2 63 SITES 22 G Lewis 8-7 ... Paul Eddery 1
3 6 BRAES'O'SHIELDHILL 30 A Bailey 8-7 ... V Halliday (5) 3
4 2 NAMELESS 3 D Cosgrove 8-7 ... J Fortune 4

6-4 Penny Parkes, 9-4 Nameless, 3-1 Sites, 6-1 Braes'O'Shieldhill.

9.30 ROHAN HANDICAP (£2,560: 1m 1f 79yd) (13)

1 3000 QUINZII MARTIN 14 (V,C,G) D Haydn Jones 7-9-12 ... S Drowne (5) 7
2 1331 EASTLEIGH 31 (G,S) R Hollinshead 6-8-11 ... L Dettori 4
3 210- ROLLING WATERS 224 (C,G) J Toller 5-9-6 ... W Newnes 6
4 4266 CICERONE 26 (G,S) J L Harris 5-9-4 ... G Duffield 3
5 0030 BALLYHAYS 40 (C,G) J A Harris 6-8-13 ... J O'Reilly 10
6 3405 FABA 31 (G) Mrs N Macauley 7-8-10 ... Amanda Sanders (7) 1
7 2400 SWYNFORD FLYER 16 (B,CD,F,G) J A Harris 6-8-9 ... T Ives 5
8 6632 BACKSTABBER 16 (B) Miss S Wilton 5-8-5 ... S D Williams 13
9 000- BIG CHANCE 250 (S) W Musson 6-8-4 ... G Hind 11
10 650/ A BADGE TOO FAR 865 L Barratt 5-8-4 ... S Sanders (3) 12
11 060-4 JU JU'S GIRL 42 B Smart 5-8-4 ... A Daly (7) 2
12 0-05 DELGARTH LADY 14 J Spearing 4-8-3 ... Dean McKeown 9
13 0100 BRIGADORE GOLD 30 (B,C,G) F Lee 5-8-2 ... D R McCabe (3) 8

7-2 Eastleigh, 4-1 Rolling Waters, 5-1 Backstabber, 7-1 Cicerone, 8-1 Quinzii Martin, 10-1 Ballyhays, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Lewis, 4 winners from 17 runners, 23.5%; P Haslam, 19 from 83, 22.9%; A Bailey, 22 from 120, 18.3%; C Brittain, 4 from 25, 16.0%; J Berry, 20 from 134, 14.9%; J L Harris, 8 from 55, 14.5%; J A Harris, 4 from 29, 13.8%.

JOCKEYS: T Ives, 17 winners from 69 rides, 24.6%; W Woods, 6 from 25, 24.0%; L Dettori, 29 from 131, 22.1%; G Hind, 3 from 14, 21.4%; G Duffield, 11 from 57, 19.3%; G Carter, 11 from 71, 15.5%.

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Ban rules Eddery out of 1,000 Guineas

Eddery: careless ride

By Julian Muscat

THE first Sunday race meeting with full betting is to take place without one of its established stars. Pat Eddery is to miss 1,000 Guineas Day at Newmarket a week tomorrow after picking up a three-day riding ban for careless riding at Sandown yesterday.

In tacking over towards the stands' side from his far-side draw, Eddery, riding the eventual winner, Brave Edge, in the Bow Street Handicap, was deemed to have bumped Leigh Crofter, ridden by Billy Newnes. He also interferred with Tenor, but Brave Edge was allowed to keep the race.

Eddery had a choice of mounts in the 1,000 Guineas, the only British classic he has yet to win. He had been linked with Macoumba, a 10-1 chance trained in France by Criquette Head. The ban also rules the Irishman out of opening day at Chester, when the prestigious Chester Vase is contested on Tuesday.

If Eddery will want to forget his experience at the Esher track, Chris Wall will retain altogether fonder memories. The Newmarket trainer landed his first group race in Britain when Missed Flight ran out a convincing winner of the Sandown Mile.

A catalogue of doubts surrounded Green Green Desert, Mutakddim and Ridgewood Ben, the principal opponents to Missed Flight. Such advantageous circumstances rarely translate into hard currency, but the five-year-old is too streetwise to forsake pickings of £27,063. He now heads for the Lockinge Stakes with his confidence on a high.

That wasn't the case after his seasonal debut last month, when Missed Flight spent much of the race imprisoned behind a wall of horses. "I was handcuffed at Doncaster," related his regular rider, George Duffield, "but we were always well placed today. It was just a matter of picking him up at the right time. He doesn't do much when in front."

Missed Flight's winning time of 1min 41.09sec was more than three seconds faster than that posted by Spectrum in the Tudor Conditions Stakes over the same distance. However, that should not be held against Spectrum, an imposing son of Rainbow Quest with a classic agenda.

Anchored last of the five runners, Spectrum made light of a slow early gallop to round his field in 200 yards. Simultaneously, Sanoosea, a full-brother to Indian Skimmer, found himself trapped against the far rail. It was disappointing Sanoosea could not get free. He might have forced Spectrum to work for the spoils, in the process allowing us to learn a little more about Lord Weinstock's promising homebred.

RIPON

THUNDERER

2.05 Awesome Power. 2.35 Itsinthepost. 3.05 Waterford. 3.40 Uncle Doug. 4.15 Murajja. 4.45 Best Of All. 5.20 Okavango.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.05 ALDBOROUGH SELLING STAKES

(£2,970: 1m 2f) (18 runners)

1 2005 AWESOME POWER 12 (D,G) J Hills 9-9-10 A Clark 10
2 0000 BOLD MICK 23 (S) D Murray Smith 4-9-10 J Tate (3) 11
3 00/ CHIPALA 806 T Donnelly 5-9-10 S D Williams 9
4 000- COZZI 255J J Bradley 7-9-10 S Drowne (5) 16
5 /50- MASTER FIDDLER 180 E Weymes 5-9-10 Dean McKeown 12
6 00-0 MONKEY BOY 98 (B) T Bill 4-9-10 N Carlisle 17
7 -000 NORD LYS 19 F Lee 4-9-10 A Culhane 15
8 3036 PUFFY 30 (B,F,G,S) M Dods 8-9-10 J Carroll 13
9 3022 TROPICAL JUNGLE 21 (B) P Makin 5-9-10 K Darley 7
10 0-00 MARBLE 29 (G) M Wane 4-9-5 J Fanning 4
11 MELLOUISE 12J D Eddy 4-9-5 R Hills 2
12 60- NEWGATE BUBBLES 259 B Murray 4-9-5 G Parkin (7) 3
13 0-00 PETAL'S JARRED 19 (B) W Storey 5-9-5 D R McCabe (3) 1
14 2200 KIROV PROTEGE 14 (G) H Collingridge 3-8-10 Dale Gibson 6
15 JAVA RED Jimmy Fitzgerald 3-8-6 L Charnock 8
16 0-5 RIVER WYE 12 J Carr 3-8-6 S Morris 14
17 0-35 SPITFIRE BRIDGE 14 M McCormack 3-8-6 G Duffield 5
18 00-0 BLACKSPOT 7 (B) F Lee 3-8-1 R Lappin 18

3-1 Tropical Jungle, 7-2 Awesome Power, 6-1 Spitfire Bridge, 7-1 Master Fiddler, 8-1 Kirov Protege, 10-1 River Wye, 12-1 others.

2.35 LISHMAN, SIDWELL, CAMPBELL & PRICE MAIDEN AUCTION FILLIES STAKES

(2-Y-O: £3,376: 5f) (17)

1 53 MISS WATERLINE 14 P Evans 8-6 R Hills 9
2 3 KUNUCU 12 T Barron 8-5 K Darley 12
3 3 ITSINTHEPOST 17 M Johnston 8-2 T Williams 2
4 MILL END LADY M W Easterby 8-2 Ruth Coulter (7) 5
5 3 MYSTIQUE SMILE 21 J Berry 8-1 J Carroll 14
6 TRICKLEDOWN C Fairhurst 8-1 J Fanning 4
7 2 BUTTERWICK BELLE 10 R Fahey 8-0 S Maloney 6
8 DIMINUET J Watts 8-0 N Kennedy 8
9 2 TOP CAT 12 E Weymes 8-0 A Garth (5) 17
10 SHEPHERDS DEAN P Haslam 7-12 Dale Gibson 7
11 VESHCA LADY E Weymes 7-12 T Stack (5) 16
12 CAMLIBANG M Camacho 7-11 L Charnock 10
13 6 HARSH TIMES 8 M H Easterby 7-11 N Carlisle 15
14 PAT'S CHOICE M H Easterby 7-11 G Duffield 11
15 DEREK'S BO N Bycroft 7-10 N Varley (5) 1
16 BABYSHOOZ M Brittain 7-9 J Lowe 3
17 SUPERFRILLS Miss L Siddall 7-9 Dean McKeown 13

7-2 Mystique Smile, 9-2 Kunucu, 5-1 Top Cat, 7-1 Butterwick Belle, 8-1 Itsinthepost, Miss Waterline, 10-1 Diminuet, 12-1 others.

3.05 NEW PLAN FURNITURE PRO-AM LADIES HANDICAP

(£3,196: 1m) (17)

1 6-00 TALENTED TING 16 (CD,F,G) P Haslam 6-11-0 Carol Davison 4
2 40-4 PRIVATE FIXTURE 71 (G) D Marks 4-10-11 Miss K Marks 6
3 0/ CLURICAN 12J (S) N Tinkler 6-10-6 Kim Tinkler 9
4 2-23 BOLD HABIT 44 (F,G) J Pearce 10-10-3 Mrs L Pearce 12
5 5600 TOVARICH 21 D Nicholls 4-10-2 Alex Greaves 10
6 0316 GREEN'S BID 31 (D,G) D Chapman 5-10-1 Miss R Clark (5) 1
7 0-40 TOLLS CHOICE 10 (CD,F,S) M W Easterby 6-10-0 Ruth Coulter 7
8 000- LOUISVILLE BELLE 189 (G) M Usher 6-9-11 Mrs A Usher (5) 14
9 56-0 MURPHY'S GOLD 40 (D,F) R Fahey 4-9-9 Mrs L Fahey (5) 5
10 -008 WATERLORD 10 (D,S) D Nicholls 5-9-9 Miss M Carson (5) 15
11 -050 AVISHAYES 12 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-9 Miss S Bainbridge (5) 8
12 000- MR CUBE 171 (V,D,F,G) J Bradley 5-9-6 Amanda Sanders 17
13 0-61 THATCHED 12 (D,F) R Barr 5-9-6 Mrs D Kettlewell 3
14 4000 HILL FARM KATIE 2 (G) W Brisbourne 4-9-0 Miss Diana Jones 13
15 0-00 RAVE-ON-HADLEY 21J (G) S Campion 5-8-11 Mrs S J Campion (5) 16
16 000- RABETA 180 (CD,F,G) J Watts 9-8-9 Mrs J Crossley 2
17 -00-6 JUICE PLUS 17 J Parkes 4-8-7 Victoria Appleby (5) 11

5-1 Bold Habit, 6-1 Avishayes, Thatched, 7-1 Green's Bid, 8-1 Rabeta, 10-1 Avishayes, Clurican, 12-1 Waterlord, 14-1 others.

3.40 C B HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP

(Handicap: £7,003: 2m) (10)

1 06-0 SABAWAT 22 (F,G) D Nicholls 7-10-0 Alex Greaves 9
2 1-11 ART FORM 86 (D,F,G) C Cyzer 8-9-10 G Duffield 5
3 040- HIGHFLYING 189 (C,D,F,G,S) G Moore 9-9-10 J Tate (3) 1
4 830- SOLOMON'S DANCER 190 (F,G) W Haigh 5-9-8 Dale Gibson 3
5 249- GOOD HAND 175 (CD,F,S) J Watts 9-9-8 N Connorton 4
6 02-0 MONDRAGON 36 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-7 Dean McKeown 8
7 23-3 WHITE WILLOW 22 (V,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-1 K Darley 10
8 2200 ARGYLE CAVALIER 12 (CD,F,G,S) M Johnston 5-8-7 J Carroll 2
9 0023 TANAH MERAH 17 E Alston 4-8-1 N Carlisle 7
10 421- UNCLE DOUG 44J (D,S) Mrs M Reveley 4-7-10 J Lowe 6

4-1 Uncle Doug, 9-2 Art Form, 5-1 White Willow, 6-1 Mondragon, Good Hand, 8-1 Argyle Cavalier, Highflying, 10-1 others.

4.15 ANGTHORPE RATED HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £8,913: 1m 2f) (3)

1 11-1 MURAJJA 14 (D,G,S) P Walwyn 9-0 R Hills 2
2 6-16 VIN ST KOOLA 22 (D,G) H Collingridge 8-9 Dale Gibson 1
3 340- EIGHT SHARP 225 (S) B Hills 8-5 J D Smith (5) 3

4-5 Murajja, 2-1 Eight Sharp, 3-1 Vin St Koola.

4.45 YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES TELEVISION HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £4,004: 6f) (15)

1 06-4 FRENCH GRIT 7 (F) M Dods 9-7 Dale Gibson 6
2 -244 FORZAIR 12 M McCormack 9-3 A Clark 3
3 -112 DENBRAE 14 (D,G) D Murray Smith 9-2 J Tate (3) 2
4 210- BEST OF ALL 280 (C,F) J Berry 9-1 J Carroll 8
5 45-2 ARASONG 10 (F) E Weymes 8-13 K Darley 13
6 20-5 THICK AS THIEVES 9 (D,F,G) Ronald Thompson 8-13 G Duffield 15
7 2550 TEE TEE TOO 24 (D,G) P Haslam 8-9 J Stack (5) 11
8 20-0 BRECONGILL LAD 8 Miss S Hall 8-7 N Connorton 1
9 00-3 BROCKTON FLAME 10 (D,F) J Eustace 8-6 R Hills 10
10 50-4 STOLEN KISS 10 (B) M W Easterby 8-6 L Charnock 8
11 441- RYMER'S RASCAL 191 (D,S) E Alston 8-5 N Carlisle 12
12 3-04 PENNY'S WISHING 8 J Leigh 8-3 Dean McKeown 7
13 2342 RUSSIAN HEROINE 8 (F,S) M Johnston 8-1 T Williams 5
14 00-4 BOLLIN FRANK 19 M H Easterby 8-1 S Maloney 4
15 160- THE SCYTHIAN 185 (F) Bob Jones 7-13 J Fanning 14

11-2 Denbrae, 6-1 Forzair, 7-1 Arasong, 8-1 Best Of All, Brockton Flame, 10-1 Thick As Thieves, Russian Heroine, 12-1 others.

5.20 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £3,850: 1m 2f) (11)

1 0- EAU DE COLOGNE 179 C Thornton 9-0 Dean McKeown 8
2 0-2 MAETERLINCK 38 B Hills 9-0 R Hills 9
3 00 MR PERSONALITY 24 Mrs M Reveley 9-0 S Copp (7) 1
4 2-6 OKAVANGO 11 J Gosden 9-0 J Carroll 3
5 PRINCE EQUINAME D Eddy 9-0 J Fanning 2
6 TILAAL E Dunlop 9-0 J Tate (3) 6
7 WURLITZER J Gosden 9-0 Dale Gibson 5
8 03- FLAME WAR 217 H Cecil 8-9 J Lowe 7
9 4- GOLDEN DIGGER 210 M Stoute 8-9 K Darley 10
10 5 ISLAND CASCADE 12 D Ircosa 8-9 Kim Tinkler 4
11 000- KRALINGEN 218 N Chamberlain 8-9 N Connorton 11

3-1 Flame War, 7-2 Maeterlinck, 9-2 Okavango, Golden Digger, 8-1 Wurlitzer, 10-1 Tilaal, 12-1 Mr Personality, 16-1 others.

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

5.50 Super Sandy. 6.20 Devilry. 6.50 Royal Stream. 7.20 The Grey Monk. 7.50 Golden Fiddle. 8.20 Lottery Ticket.

Brian Beel: 6.50 Stelzer.

GOING: SOFT SIS

5.50 CHESTERS STUD NOVICES CHASE

(£2,738: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 5F11 SUPER SANDY 25 (CD,S) F Walton 8-11-10 K Johnson
2 3140 GYMCRAK SOVEREIGN 38 (D,G,S) G Holmes 7-11-8 R Marley
3 546F BACK BEFORE DAWN 9 (G,S) P Monteith 8-11-1 G Cahill (7)
4 F42P IT'S THE PITS 103 (G,S) L Lungo 8-11-1 T Reed
5 1PP0 MONOKRATIC 14 (S) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-1 J Callaghan
6 6FP0 JOYFUL IMP 26 J Dixon 8-10-10 B Storey
7 -P00 JUST MOLLY 8 W Reed 8-10-10 M Moloney

5-4 Super Sandy, 4-1 It's The Pits, 9-2 Gymcrak Sovereign, 5-1 Back Before Dawn, 8-1 Monokratic, 14-1 Just Molly, 30-1 Joyful Imp.

6.20 NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOYS CLUBS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,402: 2m) (10)

1 1100 PALACEGATE KING 44 (CD,S) A Whillans 6-12-0 G Lee (5)
2 06F4 ABBOT OF FURNESS 36 (D,S) G Richards 11-11-1 B Harding (5)
3 2604 DEVILRY 17F (B,D,S) G Moore 5-10-6 J Callaghan
4 3-06 CASUAL PASS 8 (B,CD,F,G,S) L Lungo 12-10-1 T Reed
5 B/F SCARLET EXPRESS 608 (D,G,S) M Brittain 8-10-0 K Johnson
6 3205 PERSPICACITY 12 (CD,F) Mrs J Mason 8-10-0 Mark Roberts (7)
7 0045 SCARBA 14 (CD,S) D Baxston 7-10-0 E Husband (5)
8 3/0 MARZOCCO 26 (D,S) T Cuthbert 7-10-0 Carol Cuthbert
9 0FPP HERE COMES TIBBY 12 (CD,S) W Reed 8-10-0 B Storey
10 F3PP WHO SIR 12 (S) H Alexander 9-10-0 G Cahill (7)

9-4 Devilry, 3-1 Abbot Of Furness, 7-2 Palacegate King, 9-2 Casual Pass, 10-1 Perspicacity, 16-1 Scarba, 20-1 others.

6.50 GILESGATE VOLVO HEART OF ALL ENGLAND MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE

(Amateurs: £2,739: 3m 1f) (20)

1 40UP COT LANE 11 (B,F,G) J Walmsley 10-12-0 R Walmsley (7)
2 U456 EVENING RUSH 20P (B,G,S) Mrs A Farrell 9-12-0 K Drewry (7)
3 4633 GAELIC WARRIOR 11 (S) Mrs E Clark 8-12-0 D Parker (3)
4 3613 GO SILLY 18 (S) Ms L Plater 9-12-0 Miss P Robson (7)
5 131 MASTER MISCHIEF 48P (G) F Walton 8-12-0 J Walton
6 U6-2 MILL KNOCK 12P (S) J Thompson 13-12-0 T Scott (7)
7 -214 PENNINE VIEW 35P (S) J Dixon 8-12-0 Miss J Thurlow (5)
8 P/31 QUAKER BOB 28P (S) Miss J Bower 10-12-0 J Apiafi (7)
9 402U REGAL SMOKE 14P (F) S Robinson 9-12-0 Simon Robinson (7)
10 112F ROYAL STREAM 25P (G) Mrs D Johnstone 8-12-0 A Parker (7)
11 F-21 STAXIGOE 20P (F) P Wilson 7-12-0 R Hale (5)
12 UF32 STEADY AWAY 14P Mrs J Batman 6-12-0 Miss Sue Nichol (7)
13 1P-3 STELZER 12 (G) A Bonas 9-12-0 M H Naughton (7)
14 /0-3 THE MAJOR GENERAL 26 G Richards 8-12-0 A Ogden (7)
15 U318 TOM LOG 20P (F,S) Mrs C Wantroper 8-12-0 W Burnell (7)
16 P422 CASTLE GEM 14P (G) S Clark 9-11-9 P Atkinson (7)
17 26P6 FARMERS HAY 28P (G) Mrs S Irwin 12-11-9 D Wood (7)
18 R331 GAY VIXEN VI 7P (F) F Corbett 10-11-9 N Hargreave (7)
19 FP53 WEDDICAR LADY 7P K Robson 9-11-9 J Nicholl (7)
20 PP-P WIRE LASS 48P K Robson 11-11-9 P Jenkins (7)

3-1 Gaelic Warrior, 4-1 Royal Stream, 5-1 Cot Lane, 7-1 Stelzer, 8-1 The Major General, 10-1 Go Silly, 12-1 Quaker Bob, 14-1 Master Mischief, 20-1 others.

7.20 McEWANS BEST SCOTCH TOP OF THE NORTH NOVICES HURDLE

(Qualifier: £2,810: 2m 4f 110yd) (12)

1 U413 THE GREY MONK 14 (C,G,S) G Richards 7-11-6 B Harding (5)
2 0 BANGABUNNY 30 Mrs S Bramall 5-11-0 Mr D Parker (3)
3 0406 HARRYS HARVEST 11 Mrs S Smith 6-11-0 Mr L Donnelly (7)
4 4266 JIM'S WISH 176 (B) T Cuthbert 7-11-0 Carol Cuthbert
5 P JONES 63 Mrs J Goodfellow 5-11-0 B Storey
6 -860 JUMPING CACTUS 46 S Pittendrigh 6-11-0 P Murray (7)
7 0020 MARKED CARD 7 Mrs M Kendall 7-11-0 Mrs M Kendall
8 -0P0 TALL FELLOW 18 S Clark 5-11-0 Miss R Clark (7)
9 0060 BLUEBELL TRACK 44 (B) V Thompson 9-10-9 G Cahill (7)
10 05-0 DUNNOHALM 18 (G) T Tate 6-10-9 J Callaghan
11 00 TARO CARD 10F R Woodhouse 4-10-7 G Lee (5)
12 00 AMY'S DREAM 63 R Woodhouse 4-10-2 L O'Hara

4-5 The Grey Monk, 7-1 Dunnohalm, Jim's Wish, 8-1 Harrys Harvest, 12-1 Taro Card, 14-1 Amy's Dream, 16-1 others.

7.50 GILESGATE VOLVO HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,199: 2m 4f 110yd) (13)

1 04U4 GREEN TIMES 9 (G,S) Miss M Milligan 10-12-0 Richard Guest
2 P-F2 MR SETASIDE 166 (S) J Mackie 10-11-7 A Thornton
3 -0PU LUPY MINSTREL 157 (F,G,S) C Parker 10-11-5 Mr D Parker (3)
4 0-F5 DELGANY RUN 61 (G,S) P Monteith 11-11-2 S de Burgh (7)
5 2142 GOLDEN FIDDLE 25 (D,S) J Oliver 7-11-0 B Storey
6 3-2P MILITARY SECRET 16 (C,F,G) Mrs E Moscrop 9-10-10 J Callaghan
7 F/ FIBREGUIDE TECH 434P (F,G) T Kinsey 12-10-6 —
8 41F5 THE LORRYMAN 14 (CD,F,S) L Lungo 7-10-6 T Reed
9 5525 BLAZING DAWN 38 (D,G,S) V Thompson 8-10-2 B Harding (5)
10 5U-6 MIG 68 (D,G) N Mason 10-10-0 M Moloney
11 4335 MIAMI BEAR 33 (D,G) R Fahey 9-10-0 R Marley
12 PP60 DEADLINE 12 (B,D,G,S) S Chadwick 12-10-0 D Webb (7)
13 4543 LITTLE GENERAL 25 (F) B Ellison 12-10-0 F Leahy (3)

5-2 Mr Setaside, 3-1 Golden Fiddle, 7-1 The Lorryman, 8-1 Green Times, 10-1 Miami Bear, 12-1 Lupy Minstrel, 14-1 others.

8.20 TRIPLEPRINT OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,466: 2m) (21)

1 00-2 BE BRAVE 220 T Etherington 5-11-0 R Rourke (7)
2 CHAIN LINE J Aynsley 5-11-0 B Storey
3 GRAND ENTRY Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0 R Hodge
4 202 LOTTERY TICKET 30 J Edwards 6-11-0 D Bentley
5 MR LIND G Moore 5-11-0 J Callaghan
6 FP NANCYS CHOICE 48P J Hope 5-11-0 B Harding (5)
7 PP O'REILLY Mrs S Bramall 5-11-0 Mr D Parker (3)
8 RIOT LEADER J Edwards 5-11-0 Miss P Robson
9 0 SPLENDID OCCASION 42 W Cunningham 5-11-0 W Fry (5)
10 STONE THE CROWS Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-0 W Owen
11 0 ALLONYM 88 G Moore 5-10-9 N Bentley
12 INDIAN SUMMIT Mrs S Smith 5-10-9 M Harris (7)
13 VINTAGE BELL A Le Blond 5-10-9 J Gracey (7)
14 DIESEL'S FOLLY R Woodhouse 4-10-6 G Lee (5)
15 0 FLAMING FRED 7 C Parker 4-10-6 B Storey
16 33 ICE COLD IN ALEX 40 C Thornton 4-10-6 Mark Roberts (7)
17 SHALLOW RIVER R Collins 4-10-6 D Ryan
18 0 UNCLE MOUSE 56 Miss S Hall 4-10-6 F Leahy (3)
19 BRIDLED TERN J Jefferson 4-10-3 Richard Guest
20 6 NOVA HILL 12 Miss L Siddall 4-10-3 A Thornton
21 STORMHILL AMAZON T Tate 4-10-3 Mr W Burnell (7)

7-2 Ice Cold In Alex, 9-2 Lottery Ticket, 6-1 Grand Entry, 8-1 Bridled Tern, Be Brave, Stone The Crows, 10-1 Riot Leader, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

HEXHAM: Trainers: A Whillans, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5%; P Monteith, 15 from 49, 30.6%; Mrs M Reveley, 18 from 70, 25.7%; L Lungo, 12 from 48, 25.0%; G Richards, 27 from 109, 24.8%. Jockeys: N Bentley, 15 winners from 49 rides, 30.6%; B Harding, 3 from 13, 23.1%; T Reed, 23 from 114, 20.2%; Miss J Thurlow, 3 from 15, 20.0%; L O'Hara, 11 from 61, 18.0%.

RIPON: Trainers: H Cecil, 17 winners from 36 runners, 47.2%; M Stoute, 13 from 44, 29.5%; J Gosden, 10 from 39, 25.6%; B Hills, 5 from 21, 23.8%; J Pearce, 3 from 14, 21.4%. Jockeys: J Tate, 5 winners from 29 rides, 17.2%; J Carroll, 15 from 93, 16.1%; K Darley, 23 from 151, 15.2%; N Connorton, 12 from 90, 13.3%; G Duffield, 9 from 71, 12.7%.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

2.15 Banana Cove. 2.50 Criminal Record. 3.20 Mr Jamboree. 3.55 Countorus. 4.30 Mr Taylor. 5.00 Manamour. 5.30 Alzulu.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.15 KINGS HEAD NOVICES HURDLE

(£3,050: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)

1 -6- BALNAGOWN 457 H Collingridge 7-11-0 S McNeill
2 3424 BONNIFER 12 M Wilkinson 6-11-0 G McCourt
3 00-0 CHUCKLES 176 S Smith 5-11-0 S O'Donnell (7)
4 00 DRUMCULLEN 56 K Bailey 6-11-0 N Williamson
5 45 FORGE GOLD 31 H Collingridge 5-11-0 R Marley
6 05F4 GORBY'S MYTH 14 J Leigh 5-11-0 Richard Guest
7 D HIGH ROAD 40 J Johnson 5-11-0 J F Titley
8 366 NOVA CHAMP 3 Mrs S Smith 7-11-0 R Wilkinson (7)
9 0003 PRIMO CARNERA 12 Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-0 M Dwyer
10 3551 BANANA COVE 16 (F) Mrs J Cecil 4-10-13 T Kent
11 D01 BINLABOON 21 (F) K Wingrove 4-10-13 J Ryan
12 1F40 MOOBAKKR 151 (C,G) K Morgan 4-10-13 A S Smith
13 -004 CHINO'S DELIGHT 43 J Wharton 6-10-9 B Dalton
14 0- MORE TO LIFE 414 S Campion 6-10-9 P Midgley (3)
15 002 MINSTER GLORY 21F M W Easterby 4-10-7 R Garritty
16 00 STROLLING MINSTREL 103F B Rothwell 4-10-7 R Supple

2-1 Banana Cove, 5-1 Bonnifer, Gorby's Myth, 7-1 Minster Glory, 10-1 Primo Carnera, 14-1 Moobakkr, 16-1 others.

2.50 WHITE SWAN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,997: 2m 1f 110yd) (12)

1 -536 INNOCENT GEORGE 14 (CD,G) Miss L Siddall 6-11-10 A Thornton
2 05U0 DALLAI 29 Mrs N Macauley 4-11-9 N Williamson
3 2220 CYRILL HENRY 217 (CD,F,G) P Wintworth 6-11-6 J R Kavanagh
4 -006 GOLDMIRE 12 W Tinning 5-11-5 S Turner
5 5561 WATER DIVINER 12 (F,G) K Wingrove 5-11-4 J Ryan
6 0434 CRIMINAL RECORD 8 (V,F) W Clay 5-11-3 Diane Clay
7 04R6 ANTARTICTERN 5 N Tinkler 5-11-2 A S Smith
8 6001 CLASSIC EXHIBIT 29 (F,G) A Forbes 6-11-1 T Eley (3)
9 P1 TOUZLA 12 (CD,F) M Chapman 4-11-0 W Worthington
10 P005 ROBBINS PRIDE 5 N Tinkler 5-10-13 E Husband (5)
11 -003 TAKE THE LAST 12 J Glover 5-10-5 T Becton (7)
12 0PPP DEBLYN 12 D Robinson 4-10-0 M Robinson

4-1 Innocent George, 9-2 Touzla, 5-1 Water Diviner, 6-1 Classic Exhibit, 7-1 Criminal Record, Take The Last, 10-1 Dallai, 12-1 others.

3.20 RED LION HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,969: 2m 4f) (7)

1 F311 MR JAMBOREE 8 (D,F,G) K Bailey 9-12-0 N Williamson
2 12F0 NORTHERN SQUIRE 26 (CD,G,S) J Jefferson 7-10-10 M Dwyer
3 65P4 KIND'A SMART 12 (F,G,S) K Morgan 10-10-9 A S Smith
4 1F51 DEEP DECISION 39 (CD,F,G) P Cheesbrough 9-10-1 R Supple
5 040U STEPFASTER 122 (CD,F,G) Miss L Siddall 10-10-0 A Thornton
6 U152 RUPPLES 12 (C,F,G) M Chapman 8-10-0 W Worthington
7 4055 SECRET SUMMIT 10 (C,F,G,S) A Forbes 9-10-0 T Eley (3)

5-4 Mr Jamboree, 11-4 Deep Decision, 7-2 Kind'a Smart, 9-2 Northern Squire, 14-1 Rupples, 25-1 Secret Summit, Stepfaster.

3.55 CHASE NOVICES CHASE

(£3,938: 2m 4f) (7)

1 F363 DUAL IMAGE 12 (F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-12-0 M Dwyer
2 32P2 COUNTORUS 11 (G,S) J Johnson 9-11-10 J F Titley
3 3/5- FAST RECOVERY 413P C Wall 10-11-4 J McLaughlin
4 P-00 KIVETON TYCOON 44 (G,S) (B) J Glover 6-11-4 A S Smith
5 0/P MIGHTY MERC 35 (F) Mrs R Broad 7-11-4 Richard Guest
6 F5 OVERFLOWING RIVER 12 J Wade 6-11-4 K Jones
7 F222 SIZZLING AFFAIR 12 M Wilkinson 6-11-4 R Supple

6-4 Dual Image, 5-2 Countorus, 4-1 Sizzling Affair, 9-2 Kiveton Tycoon, 25-1 Fast Recovery, 33-1 Mighty Merc, Overflowing River.

4.30 GORDON ARMS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,740: 2m 5f 110yd) (22)

1 P1-U KENMORE-SPEED 11 (F,S) Mrs S Smith 8-11-10 Richard Guest
2 /2-5 AUTHORSHIP 31 (F,G) W Musson 9-11-10 J Supple (5)
3 4533 MARSH'S LAW 14 (C,F,G,S) D Brennan 8-11-10 S O'Donnell (7)
4 -2P0 ISABEAU 17 (C,F,G,S) K Morgan 8-11-9 A S Smith
5 5000 WORLD WITHOUT END 80 (D,S) W Clay 6-11-8 Diane Clay
6 1451 CHADWICK'S GINGER 10 (F,G) W Tinning 7-11-6 S Turner
7 5452 WHITE DIAMOND 14 (F,S) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-4 J K McCarthy (7)
8 3020 JOHN NAMAN 21 (F,S) D Geraghty 6-10-11 E Callaghan (7)
9 5523 MR TAYLOR 12 (D,F,S) H Collingridge 10-10-9 S McNeill
10 113P ALASKAN HEIR 70 (G,S) A Forbes 4-10-8 T Eley (3)
11 5680 CAMBO 5 (B,D,G,S) M Banks 9-10-7 D Skyrme
12 62P5 SHELTON ABBEY 5 (B,F,G,S) J Wade 9-10-4 K Jones
13 0300 BAJAN AFFAIR 14 (G) Miss L Siddall 5-10-4 A Thornton
14 4F2P MRS MONEYPENNY 35 M Wilkinson 6-10-3 R Supple
15 21-2 DELIFFIN 39 (G) R Flower 9-10-0 L Aspell (7)
16 3-23 WILTOSKI 28 (B,F,G) R Ledger 7-10-0 Mrs N Ledger
17 0000 BURN BRIDGE 109 (V,F,G,S) L Lloyd-James 9-10-0 K Davies
18 PP0P FIRST LORD 44 (B,G,S) Mrs V Aconley 9-10-0 D Byrne
19 1-05 BRECKENBROUGH LAD 12 (G) D Turner 8-10-0 T Dascombe (7)
20 /PP MAJOR FREDIE 8 (G) S Harris 9-10-0 B Dalton
21 -600 PLEASURE CRUISE 18 J Cresswell 5-10-0 W McFarland
22 0P-6 HARD TO GET 12 (B,C,G) M Barraclough 8-10-0 Ann Stokell

9-2 Mr Taylor, 5-1 Chadwick's Ginger, Deliffin, 7-1 Marsh's Law, White Diamond, 10-1 Alaskan Heir, 12-1 Kenmore-Speed, 14-1 others.

5.00 GEORGE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,838: 2m 1f 110yd) (9)

1 P001 AUBURN BOY 9 (G) M W Easterby 8-12-0 R Garritty
2 5236 THE CARROT MAN 21 P Winkworth 7-11-4 J R Kavanagh
3 64P2 RAWAAN 9 (F,G,S) N Tinkler 8-11-0 A S Smith
4 5542 MASTER'S CROWN 12 (F,G,S) M Chapman 7-10-9 W Worthington
5 P553 EASBY MANDRINA 68 (F,G,S) S Kettlewell 8-10-6 R Supple
6 3551 TRUSS 12 (F,G) J Upson 8-10-4 J Supple (5)
7 53U1 MANAMOUR 12 (F) R Lee 8-10-3 P McLoughlin (3)
8 -4PF CARDINAL SINNER 70 J Wade 6-10-0 K Jones
9 0PSU PRETTY BOY GEORGE 16 K Clutterbuck 6-10-0 D Walsh (5)

9-4 Truss, 11-4 Auburn Boy, 7-2 Manamour, 5-1 Rawaan, 7-1 Easby Mandrina, 8-1 Master's Crown, 14-1 others.

5.30 ASTON ARMS NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,466: 1m 5f 110yd) (20)

1 516 FELDSPAR 35 (G) J Edwards 6-12-0 Mr M Daly (7)
2 PARIS BOURSE J Norton 5-11-7 W Fry (5)
3 0 SHEPPIE'S REALITY 12 R Emery 5-11-7 Mr I McLelland
4 SUPREME NORMAN J Pickering 5-11-7 T Dascombe (7)
5 THE ARCHORIAN J Young 6-11-7 Murtagh Kelly (7)
6 UP AND ABOVE H Collingridge 6-11-7 S Curran (3)
7 4 GLASHAWAN 29 D Brennan 5-11-2 S O'Donnell (7)
8 00 LOTHIAN JEM 12 J Wharton 5-11-2 Mr S Walker (7)
9 ALZULU Jimmy Fitzgerald 4-11-1 E Callaghan (7)
10 0P BILLYTOBINSLAD 12 Mrs V Aconley 4-11-1 Pat Thompson (7)
11 FLYING FREDDIE G Oldroyd 4-11-1 P Midgley (3)
12 GOLDEN PUNCH C Cyzer 4-11-1 L Aspell (7)
13 KABANCY D Chapman 4-11-1 B Grattan (7)
14 XANONA Mrs A Swinbank 4-11-1 J K McCarthy (7)
15 00 SALVO 12 Mrs M Sink 4-11-1 D J Moffatt
16 0 WATT A JOKER 12 R Lee 4-11-1 T Eley (3)
17 0 ANABRANCH 50 J Jefferson 4-10-10 M Newton (7)
18 PATEY COURT J Johnson 4-10-10 A Larnach (3)
19 WATERLOO BELLE Mrs N Macauley 4-10-10 P McLoughlin (3)
20 00 WHITEGATESPRINCESS 28 J Johnson 4-10-10 S Taylor (7)

3-1 Alzulu, 7-2 Feldspar, 5-1 Glashawan, 7-1 Anabranch, Golden Punch, 10-1 Patey Court, 14-1 others.

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

5.40 Jacob's Wife. 6.10 Kytton Castle. 6.40 Edimbourg. 7.10 High Low. 7.40 Final Pride. 8.10 Henry Cone.

Brian Beel: 7.40 Final Pride.

GOING: GOOD SIS

5.40 DROITWICH LAND ROVER MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,653: 2m) (22 runners)

1 0341 JACOB'S WIFE 17 (CD,G) J Webber 5-11-5 G McCourt
2 0231 MISS HAGGIS 7 (D,G) J Gifford 6-11-5 P Hide
3 0201 TWICE A NIGHT 8 (D,F) D Nicholson 6-11-5 W Marston
4 1PPP WILL IT LAST 12 (S) N Babbage 9-11-5 Philip Hughes (7)
5 2510 KARLINE KA 35 (D,S) R Dickin 4-10-13 D Meredith (3)
6 PUP- ABBEY CURVE 336P Mrs E Heath 8-10-12 T Grantham
7 P/P COUNTRY KIZZIE 17 N Thick 6-10-12 W Humphreys
8 0F5 KERRY JANE 21 N Babbage 5-10-12 R Farrant
9 FF55 LINDALIGHTER 12 D Nicholson 5-10-12 G Hogan (5)
10 U MISS CARANGE 42P A Dunn 7-10-12 Peter Hobbs
11 00 MISWISKERS 31 R Price 5-10-12 R Davis
12 0/ MY PREROGATIVE 763 K Bridgwater 6-10-12 J Lodder
13 6 NOT TO PANIC 39 K Burke 5-10-12 R Dunwoody
14 RUBY'S GIRL A Turnell 5-10-12 D Fortt (5)
15 R SEYMOUR MANORS 8 B Baugh 6-10-12 Gary Lyons
16 00-0 WIN A HAND 79 B Ryall 5-10-12 S Lyons (3)
17 6406 MISS GRUNTLED 49 D french Davis 4-10-6 A P McCoy
18 5 QUIET AMUSEMENT 70 K Bailey 4-10-6 N Williamson
19 00 RAPIER ACE 12 M Scudamore 4-10-6 D J Burchell
20 P SHUTTLINGSLOW 18F N Gaselee 4-10-6 J Railton
21 00 SORCIERE 17 G Balding 4-10-6 J Frost
22 P0 STORM HEIGHTS 17 Mrs A Hamilton-Fairley 4-10-6 D Leahy (3)

3-1 Miss Haggis, 7-2 Jacob's Wife, 4-1 Karline Ka, 9-2 others.

6.10 GRANDSTAND NOVICES CHASE

(£3,066: 2m) (14)

1 1F41 KYTTON CASTLE 7 (D,G,S) R Dickin 8-11-12 D Meredith (3)
2 5515 COUNT BARACHOIS 24 (D,S) Mrs E Heath 7-11-10 T Grantham
3 2341 PONTYNYSWEN 28 (V,D,G,S) D Burchell 7-11-10 D J Burchell
4 213U WHIPPERS DELIGHT 7 (D,G,S) G Charles-Jones 7-11-10 D Bridgwater
5 443P RICHU 14 (F) G Thorner 7-11-3 N Williamson
6 F3F3 FINAL ACE 12 Mrs A Price 8-11-3 Mr M Jackson
7 342U HENLEY REGATTA 168 P Rodford 7-11-3 M A Fitzgerald
8 54P4 JIMMY THE GILLIE 33 (F,G,S) S Christian 9-11-3 G Upton
9 D00 KALOKAGATHOS 30 R Frost 6-11-3 J Frost
10 -PP2 MANDA MOON 16 (F) A Barrow 8-11-3 B Powell
11 F6-F PRIDEWOOD PICKER 18 R Price 8-11-3 R Davis
12 F02P PRINCE TINO 16 (F) N Gaselee 7-11-3 C Llewellyn
13 0340 PRINCIPLE MUSIC 80 (B,G) H Kavanagh 7-11-3 R Dunwoody
14 PP0 GLENTILT 112 J Webber 5-10-10 R Bellamy

9-4 Pontynyswen, 7-2 Kytton Castle, 5-1 Whippers Delight, 7-1 others.

6.40 THREE-COUNTIES HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,853: 2m 7f) (13)

1 -P60 RICHVILLE 42 (F,G,S) K Bailey 9-12-0 N Williamson
2 0263 GALLATEEN 22 (B,F,G,S) G Richards 7-11-13 R Farrant
3 305U ERRANT KNIGHT 21 (C,F,G,S) M Pipe 11-11-13 R Dunwoody
4 12-P COPPER MINE 12 (CD,F,G,S) O Sherwood 9-11-11 J A McCarthy
5 -112 EDIMBOURG 65 (D,F,G,S) Miss H Knight 9-10-11 J Osborne
6 55-3 LITTLE TOM 212 (C,F,G,S) J King 10-10-9 M A Fitzgerald
7 201F STAUNCH RIVAL 14 (C,D,G,S) G Thorner 8-10-8 D Bridgwater
8 FP05 DRAGONS DEN 14 (C,F,G,S) S Sherwood 9-10-8 G Upton
9 4153 ANDERMATT 8 (S) J Mackie 8-10-6 J F Titley
10 3534 COUTURE STOCKINGS 11 (F,G,S) J Mackie 11-10-3 C Llewellyn
11 3215 SAILOR JIM 12 (F,S) P Dalton 8-10-3 W Marston
12 4001 ACROW LINE 14 (F,S) D Burchell 10-10-0 D J Burchell
13 1-PP LOCAL CUSTOMER 12 (F,G) P Bradley 10-10-0 S Wynne (3)

4-1 Gallateen, 5-1 Edimbourg, 7-1 Staunch Rival, Sailor Jim, 8-1 others.

7.10 BANNERLAND PRODUCTS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,179: 2m) (15)

1 14/ SAGAMAN 786 (D,G,S) R Dickin 9-12-0 J F Titley
2 0621 NOBLELY 14 (D,F,G) N Waller 8-11-10 N Williamson
3 44-0 EDEN'S CLOSE 10F (D,G) M Tompkins 6-11-6 D Gallagher
4 1350 HIGH LOW 23 (CD,S) W Jenks 7-11-5 T Jenks
5 P1F0 MUSICAL TREND 93 (D,F,S) O Sherwood 7-11-5 J Osborne
6 F511 MUSKORA 17 (B,CD,F,G) P Hobbs 6-11 R Dunwoody
7 -040 MALIHABAD 124 (D,G) R Hollinshead 6-11-1 S Wynne (3)
8 /03- STARSTREAK 534 (F) G Balding 8-11-1 A P McCoy
9 2556 FONTANAYS 42 (D,S) Mrs M McCourt 7-10-8 R Farrant
10 -003 GOLDINGO 121 (D,S) G Price 8-10-8 Guy Lewis (5)
11 /0 STEVEADON 33 (D,G) O O'Neill 9-10-5 V Slattery
12 -261 FUTURE KING 40 (D,G,S) A Jarvis 8-10-4 W Marston
13 6313 DOUBLE THE STAKES 42 (CD,F,S) D Burchell 6-10-0 D J Burchell
14 -034 TACTICAL MISSION 12 (G) J Akehurst 7-10-0 L Harvey
15 1125 LUCAYAN GOLD 219 (CD,F,G) K Bishop 11-10-0 D Morris

7-2 Noblely, 4-1 Muskora, 7-1 Future King, 8-1 High Low, 10-1 others.

7.40 BEWDLEY NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE

(Amateurs: £1,800: 2m 7f) (18)

1 4-11 MR GOLIGHTLY 47 (G,S) Mrs S Cobden 8-12-7 Miss J Cobden (7)
2 /P-3 BOLD IMP 37 Miss S Waugh 10-12-0 M Rimell (5)
3 -PP1 BRACK N BRANDY 10P (F) Miss R David 10-12-0 M G Miller (7)
4 U/P5 CARN COUNT 34P (G) P Senter 8-12-0 A Phillips (7)
5 2-1F DANDIE IMP 21 (S) Miss P Whittle 7-12-0 T Jackson (7)
6 PU34 FRAMPTON HOUSE 27P (G) A Peachey 13-12-0 B Pollock (7)
7 06-0 HARPLEY 38 (G,S) F Matthews 8-12-0 L Brown (7)
8 /212 LIGHTEN THE LOAD 21P (S) J Payne 6-12-0 A Wintle (7)
9 32UP MERINO WALTZ 7P (F) L Bowles 9-12-0 D Duggan (7)
10 F-P5 MERRY BENVILLE 28P Mrs N Goffe 7-12-0 Michael Traung
11 0-26 MUCH 12 Mrs A Price 8-12-0 M Jackson (7)
12 4-41 PAT CULLEN 20P (G,S) D White 10-12-0 S Blackwell (7)
13 /P1- ROGEVIC BELLE 443 (G) Mrs S Sandford 7-12-0 G Brown (7)
14 PP1P SEAL KING 12 (G,S) L Bowles 10-12-0 —
15 -P54 TIME MODULE 20P D Scott 11-12-0 J Scott (7)
16 -431 WILDNITE 28P (F,G) Miss L Robbins 11-12-0 A Milner (7)
17 5-P4 COUNTRY SPIDER 39 (F) T Swaffield 10-11-9 G Baines (7)
18 1122 FINAL PRIDE 7P (F,G,S) P Bowen 9-11-9 E Williams (7)

6-4 Final Pride, 2-1 Mr Golightly, 10-1 Much, 16-1 others.

8.10 BATTENHALL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,810: 3m) (25)

1 1100 CERTAIN ANGLE 22 (G,S) P Hobbs 6-12-0 G Tormey (5)
2 2154 CUCHULLAINS GOLD 124 (BF,F,G) J White 7-11-6 N Williamson
3 0620 SAME DIFFERENCE 46 (D,G,S) A Jarvis 7-11-6 P Morris (7)
4 410P VALERIOS KING 60 (D,S) S Christian 6-11-2 G McCourt
5 2440 CRANE HILL 36 P J Hobbs 5-11-2 C Maude
6 503 BLANK CHEQUE 38 M Wilkinson 5-10-11 R Supple
7 15P5 HENRY CONE 8 (G) D Nicholson 6-10-9 W Marston
8 0303 LODESTONE LAD 12 (B) R Dickin 5-10-8 D Meredith (3)
9 -004 LIBERTY JAMES 12 Mrs E Brooks 8-10-7 Mr David Jones
10 5320 CAPTAIN BERT 78 B De Haan 6-10-6 I Lawrence
11 0663 RIVER CONSORT 14 (B) A Dunn 7-10-5 S Lyons (3)
12 0004 DEVIL'S CORNER 26 H Webb 7-10-2 S McNeill
13 P30P RAGTIME BOY 14 (V) C Barwell 7-10-0 M A Fitzgerald
14 0F51 POLDEN PRIDE 14 (F) G Balding 7-10-0 A P McCoy
15 -002 STORMTRACKER 47 C Weedon 5-10-0 Peter Hobbs
16 6500 VOLCANIC ROC 30 G Davies 5-10-0 R Davis
17 4P22 CTS RUN John R Upson 7-10-0 J Supple (5)
18 6506 AMILLIONMEMORIES 17 Mrs B Waring 5-10-0 E Byrne
19 PP36 MASTER TUCK 42 (BF) W Bishop 9-10-0 D Bridgwater
20 0500 DANCE ON SIXPENCE 21 J Peacock 7-9-9 R Bellamy
21 3PPF CARDINAL GAYLE 21 R Alner 5-10-0 P Carey (7)
22 6-00 MANDYS LAD 7 R Dickin 5-10-0 B Powell
23 -P3P JUNGLE KING 133 Mrs J Renfree-Barons 5-10-0 A Tory
24 -304 LAW FACULTY 51 G Ham 6-10-0 R Massey (5)
25 58F6 HAILE DERRING 12 M Scudamore 5-10-0 D Gallagher

5-1 Polden Pride, 6-1 Lodestone Lad, 8-1 Cuchullains Gold, 10-1 others.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Sandown Park

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.00 (5f 6yd) 1, Flying Squaw (R Hughes, 100-30); 2, Roses In The Snow (10-1); 3, Bewitching (5-1). 12 ran. ½l, 5l. M Channon. Tote: £3.90; £1.80, £3.40, £2.20. DF: £26.40. Trio: £43.10. CSF: £32.16.

2.35 (1m 14yd) 1, Spectrum (J Reid, 11-10 fav); 2, Sanoosea (9-2); 3, Stiletto Blade (9-4). 5 ran. 1½l, 2½l. P Chapple-Hyam. Tote: £1.90; £1.30, £2.00. DF: £2.60. CSF: £5.71. [illegible]

[illegible] £15.10. Trio: £91.50. CSF: £36.29. Tricast: £332.43.

5.20 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, Pikcroy (D Harrison, 11-2); 2, Dawlah (11-4 fav); 3, Stage Struck (14-1). 15 ran. Sh hd, 5l. J Fanshawe. Tote: £6.20; £1.70, £1.90, £3.80. DF: £13.70. Trio: £90.80. CSF: £19.44. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. Peripatetic (14-1) withdrawn, not under orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduct 5p in pound.

Jackpot: £7,100.00 (part won; pool of £766.12 carried forward to Sandown today). [illegible]

Carlisle

[illegible]

3.50 (1m 4f) 1, Royal Scimitar (T Quinn, 1-7 fav); 2, Fearless Venture (10-1); 3, Medway (14-1). 7 ran. 5l, nk. P Cole. Tote: £1.10; £1.10, £2.60. DF: £2.80. CSF: £3.44.

4.20 (5f) 1, Sky Dome (P Robinson, 7-4 fav); 2, Meeting Point (10-1); 3, Double Point (7-2). 11 ran. ¾l, 2l. M Tompkins. Tote: £2.80; £1.80, £3.20, £1.20. DF: £17.40. Trio: £31.70. CSF: £22.38. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

4.55 (5f 207yd) 1, Ziggy's Dancer (K Fallon, 8-1); 2, Rich Glow (14-1); 3, Miss Whittingham (4-1 fav); 4, Michellisa (12-1). 18 ran. NR: Colway Rake. 1¼l, 2l. E Alston. [illegible]

Perth

[illegible]

2.55 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Karen's Lady Luck (Kate Sellers, 10-1); 2, Emral Miss (100-30 fav); 3, Irish Flasher (10-1). 8 ran. NR: Brilliant Disguise. 3½l, 20l. M Hammond. Tote: £12.60; £2.40, £1.50, £2.70. DF: £20.70. Trio: £53.10. CSF: £40.09. Tricast: £311.19.

3.25 (3m ch) 1, Unholy Alliance (N Williamson, 9-4 jt-fav); 2, Veleda II (11-2); 3, Persian House (9-4 jt-fav). 7 ran. NR: Brackenfield. 2½l, 3½l. K Bailey. Tote: £2.70; £1.30, £2.80. DF: £7.70. CSF: £13.34. Tricast: £24.58.

4.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Keep Battling [illegible]

Thursday's late results

Warwick

[illegible]

[illegible] 9-2); 2, Daily Sport Girl (7-2); 3, Preston Guild (8-1). Shoolk 3-1 fav. 12 ran. NR: Spice And Sugar. 1¾l, 4l. P Cole. Tote: £5.50; £1.30, £2.10, £3.40. DF: £15.80. Trio: £56.00. CSF: £19.26. Tricast: £111.73.

6.00 (1m) 1, Stinging Reply (T Quinn, 9-1); 2, Incha (11-2); 3, Cyphell (6-1). Marzipan 7-2 fav. 14 ran. 2½l, 1¾l. I Balding. Tote: £9.90; £2.10, £3.00, £2.50. DF: £25.60. Trio: £53.40. CSF: £59.70.

6.30 (7f) 1, Dawalib (T Quinn, 7-1); 2, Aquado (7-1); 3, Reverend Thickness (9-1); 4, Pusey Street Boy (14-1). Berge 7-2 fav. [illegible]

Exeter

Going: good

5.45 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Cracking Idea (Mr M Daly, 6-1); 2, Sky Burst (3-1 fav); 3, See Moy Do (16-1). 16 ran. 1l, 15l. J Edwards. Tote: £6.20; £2.20, £1.90, £5.20. DF: £14.30. Trio: £163.00. CSF: £24.09.

6.15 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Aardwolf (D Gallagher, 10-1); 2, Clifton Beat (4-11 fav); 3, Khatir (100-30). 5 ran. 6l, dist. C Brooks. Tote: £5.70; £1.70, £1.10. DF: £2.40. CSF: £13.73.

6.45 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Abu Mushab (R Dunwoody, 11-10 fav); 2, Drumstick (6-4); 3, [illegible]

Chilling tale of footballers who have gone up the pole

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

SPORT is the handmaid of madness; always has been, always will be. I am not sure why this is, only that it is an ineluctable truth, one reinforced in this column every week.

There are things in life that can get you put away: do them in the name of sport and everything is all right.

Take the North Pole. What person in his right mind would consider this a good venue for a football tournament? Even in April, you have 20 inches of snow on top of the ice cap. You need a fair amount of undersoil heating to shift that.

However, a chap called Sergi Zyryanov believed that such difficulties were there only to be conquered and, last Sunday, he flew eight teams to the North Pole to play the great event.

So congratulations, then, to Biryusa Refrigerator Plant, whose very name must have chilled the hearts of the opposition. They won the tournament and the crystal trophy.

There are times, though, when you wonder if "because it was there" is a wholly adequate reason. An alternative suggestion: "Because I'm completely barking".

Hull of a mess

Great events excite great passions, as this column has been forced to observe on many occasions. So to the lunacy of the Hull Sunday League Cup final between Stadium FC and Lambworth Juventus at North Ferriby — two pitch invasions, one linesman attacked and three players from Stadium also assaulted.

This was not a matter of antique rivalries between the finalists. The trouble stemmed from a third club, Grange FC. The team beat Stadium in the semis, but they fielded an ineligible player and were kicked out. These things happens in Sunday football, but Grange took it to heart. Four days before the final, Stadium players received a series of threatening phone calls.

An offical of the Hull Sunday League found his car covered in paint stripper. A tight group of 20 Grange enthusiasts attended the final, shouting: "Kicked out of the cup by a kangaroo court".

Grange have now been thrown out of the league and all their players banned for life. Wally Owst, the league secretary, who is 67, summed up: "It was dreadful," he said. "They had a go at me, saying: 'Watch your car, Wally' and "We'll get you'. We are not having it. We are the biggest league in the country and we have a very good name."

Lesser leagues (eg, the Premiership) take note.

Capital idea

While on the subject of lunacy, we cannot let the week pass without turning our thoughts to our old friend Jesus Gil y Gil, the president of Atlético Madrid. He and other crazed fans needed somebody to blame for the club's recent poor run and who better than the Colombian, Adolfo "El Tren" Valencia?

Gil opened the batting by saying that Valencia should not play football — "He should unload boxes of fish at the market". Supporters responded by painting on the stadium walls: "Valencia: you will end up like Escobar", an elegant reference to the Colombian footballer murdered for his World Cup own goal.

You cannot beat Gil at games likes this. After the draw against Logroñes at the weekend, Gil said that he wanted "to machine-gun the entire team". "As for the black man," he said, "I've had enough of him. I'll cut off his head and paint him white."

Inevitably, objections to this have come in from anybody who can make himself heard. Valencia wants to leave Europe for ever: Gil feebly protests that he was making a joke.

Blinkered view

Meanwhile, now that baseball is back, why not go and catch the San Francisco Giants at Candlestick Park? A word of warning, though: check your seat number first.

The stadium, also home of the San Francisco 49ers National Football League team, recently added two rows of seats; an ingenious engineering feat and an expensive one. A big team of experts was used, so that they would get it just right — and so they did. With one slight problem. Both rows of seats are the same height, which means that nobody in the second row can actually see the game. For reasons that seem beyond comprehension, this little fact was not discovered until the work's triumphant completion.

It is all right though, the scheme can be rescued and those in the back row given a view. Cost of the adjustments: just US$400,000.

Tardy wisdom

Too late, too late: the saddest words in sport. Graham Gooch, whose lack of love for David Gower hastened the end of one of the best players we will ever see, admits: "I found myself more at ease without David in my side . . . I should have accepted David as a big match player of genius."

I could have told you that at the time, Graham.

From the soon-to-be-published Gooch: My Autobiography, with Frank Keating, published by HarperCollins.

NABS RUGBY SEVENS TOURNAMENT

The 33rd NABS Rugby Sevens Tournament, one of the biggest sevens tournaments in the UK, takes place tomorrow, Sunday 30 April at Richmond Athletic Ground, Kew Foot Road, Richmond, Surrey.

Forty advertising and media teams will compete in over 90 matches starting at 10.00am with finals to be played at 6.00pm.

There will be a host of off-pitch attractions for supporters and their families including a bouncy castle, bungee running, Acroflight, bouncy boxing and plenty to eat and drink.

Entry costs £2.50 for adults and £1 for children. Parking facilities available. Nearest Underground and British Rail services at Richmond only 3 minuties walk. For further information contact Kate Tolhurst at NABS on 0171-723 8028.

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Illingworth prepares to end Atherton speculation

By Alan Lee
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

AT MIDDAY tomorrow, on his own patch at Headingley, Raymond Illingworth will break his long and puzzling silence on the England captaincy. So long as their discussions in recent days have not ended sourly, the chairman of selectors will reappoint Michael Atherton, at least *for part of the forthcoming series* against West Indies, but the route to this widely anticipated conclusion has been far from straightforward.

In many another year, no suspicion would have been aroused by the captaincy being unresolved at the end of April. Even in this instance, the official line rejects all murky speculation and insists that a schedule *is being maintained*. The intrigue, however, is justified, because although Atherton's position was in no obvious doubt, Illingworth has *gone to great lengths* to avoid endorsing it.

Extraordinarily, the matter remained unresolved as recently as *Tuesday, when* Illingworth and *his* fellow selectors, David Graveney and Fred Titmus, converged on Old Trafford. If their meeting with *Atherton, announced in the fashion* of a headmaster summoning an errant pupil, had gone poorly, he might even then have been dismissed.

Illingworth, *I understand*, was incensed during the winter by his captain publicly questioning the structure of the selection panel and *implying that he had been given* a team to tour Australia that was not the one he would have chosen. This, allied to more relevant concerns over Atherton's tactical acumen and body language, persuaded Illingworth that reappointment should not be the expected formality.

The political posturing of recent days has caused *some amusement* among those with long memories. In his own days as England captain, Illingworth insisted on having his say on all pertinent matters. He would also have been riled by *the* delay and self-doubts presently being inflicted upon Atherton, but now that he has the power to set the agenda on *all England affairs*, Illingworth is not about to waste it.

Atherton will have been told that pronouncements of a sensitive sort, *especially* those that are *indiscreet* about selection, must stop. Being a wilful man himself, Atherton may not have been meekly compliant. *Here is the rub. The combination of* two bloody-minded northerners has its virtues, but also its risks.

There is another aspect to the delay. Illingworth has been working to instal his own men as specialist *coaches*. He wanted Geoffrey Boycott to work with the batsmen and Peter Lever with the seam bowlers and to confirm their acceptance *simultaneously with the captain*, but courting Boycott has brought its inevitable frustrations, both in terms of remuneration and conflict with his *opinionated media* work. The chairman may have to think again.

At least tomorrow's announcement will end immediate, unhealthy *speculation* and give Atherton, who made a timely 129 against Yorkshire yesterday, the chance to establish his credentials.

Donald sets out stall as Middlesex are outpaced

By Michael Henderson

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 191 runs ahead of Middlesex

IF YOU listen to the likes of Fred Trueman, and that is not something the average GP would recommend to anyone with high blood pressure, fast *bowlers went out with steam* trains and the Light Programme. Phooey. Only in his *dreams did Trueman bowl as* quickly as Allan Donald has done in this match.

To watch the South African yesterday was to see a wonderful fast bowler operating at what reviewers of eminent novelists usually call "the height of his powers". In his two spells before lunch from *the City end, when he took the* first five wickets to fall, Donald bowled like the wind. *Unless you were a batsman, it* was a thrilling sight.

On this evidence, it is possible to claim that he is *bowling* faster *than* he has ever done, in this country at least. Gatting, who began the *morning on strike, lasted all of* two balls. Pooley and Weekes, the left-handers, were undone by sheer pace as Donald finished with six for 56. Middlesex, bowled out for 224, to which Ramprakash contributed 85, *conceded a first innings* deficit of 58.

In his final year at Edgbaston, Donald is *intent* on a memorable leave-taking. He is not short of motive. He has put down roots in *Birmingham* and *is more* truly part of the club than Brian Lara plc, who will replace him next year as much for the commercial opportunities that his name affords as the runs that he is likely to score.

When so many overseas players are recruited for short-*term reasons, it is peculiar* that a cricketer who has committed such an *important* part of his life to Warwickshire, as Donald has done, *should be squeezed out*. Warwickshire faced a difficult decision and did not necessarily make the wrong decision, but, at 28, Donald has some rich years in him and can use this season as a summer-long "net" to remind other clubs of his value.

Significantly, the one bats-*man he could not dislodge was* Ramprakash, and Middlesex were glad of that. He also has *a future to play for*, as a Test batsman, and he looked the part. A model of composure against *Donald*, who hurried everyone else, Ramprakash milked the other bowlers with driving of a high order.

He did not look best pleased to be given out leg-before to Small, but he had left his *imprint on another* evenly-contested day. A match that features the bowling of Donald, the batting of Ramprakash and Knight and the catching of Carr has plenty to commend it — and it is not *over yet*.

After lunch, Donald switched ends to take a sixth wicket when Nash played on. The New Zealander had made 33 and has so far impressed more with the bat than the ball, *though he did remove* Twose in Warwickshire's second innings when a top-edged pull flew high to cover and, just before stumps, he returned to have Knight caught behind.

Moles had gone to the second ball of the innings and Ostler padded up later to *Tufnell's arm ball, unwisely as* it turned out. Towards the end of a sunlit day, as Knight passed 50 for the second time in the match. Warwickshire settled down to the steady business of securing a match-*winning lead*.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Hussain square cuts the ball to the boundary on his way to a high-class century at Chelmsford

Essex respond to their doubters

By Ivo Tennant

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Leicestershire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 75 runs behind Essex

AT A *time of year when there* is much talk of Essex going through a transitional season, it is salutary to heed the contrary thoughts of Keith Fletcher. They will, he said before Graham Gooch and *Nasser Hussain scored high*-class centuries yesterday, still contest the county championship as forcefully *as* in years gone by.

To beat Leicestershire, the runners-up last season, would be quite a *start* after their troubled winter. They still have much to do — Briers and *Cronje saw to that by staying* together in the final session — *but a first-innings* lead of 151 was substantial in conditions giving help to the faster bowlers.

The morning began, as many here still do, with Gooch being given a net by his coach *and close friend, Alan Lilley*. No matter that he has retired from Test cricket and has a testimonial to consume him: making runs for Essex will be an all-embracing ambition until he retires.

Fletcher, now back with Essex, reckons his old colleague has at least two more *seasons in him, in which case* his imminent autobiography is a little premature. Gooch now has 114 first-class hundreds, *as many as* Viv Richards. The next person he will overtake is Sir Donald *Bradman* (117), *then Tom* Graveney (122) and Denis *Compton (123)*.

In Mullally's first over yesterday, Gooch took three fours. The fifteenth of his innings, square cut with great force, took him to his hundred. There were 22 in all before he was *somewhat unluckily out*, caught down the leg side.

Hussain remained. For all his indiscipline *in the past*, being conferred with the vice-captaincy should benefit him as it did Ramprakash on *England's recent A tour. Certainly* this was the most responsible of innings, blighted only when *he* top-edged a violent pull from his first ball after tea.

This is a shot Hussain plays frequently, rocking back onto *his stumps to do so*. He does not refrain, either, from piling into anything remotely pitched up. *Others came and went* swinging across the line and, *in Robinson's case, run out* when unnecessarily yards down the pitch seeking an ill-judged single.

It looked in mid-afternoon as if Essex would gain an even larger lead, for the ball was *not darting around as much* as on Thursday. When Leicestershire went in a second time, they soon lost Boon, prodding at Williams's away *swinger*, but Briers and Cronje batted resolutely until the close.

Briers was as watchful in defence as in his excellent hundred the previous day, while Cronje took on Ilott in thrilling manner. He is reckoned to be more susceptible to the short ball than anything *pitched up, but that was not* the case now. Three times in succession he hooked Ilott powerfully to the boundary.

Cullinan piles on agony

By Jack Bailey

DERBY (second day of four): Sussex, with six second-innings wickets in hand, need 424 runs to avoid an innings defeat

THE weather improved at Derby yesterday, but, as far as Sussex were concerned, not much else did. Led by Daryll Cullinan, their South African *recruit — and, on this showing*, their biggest scoop since Peter Kirsten, whom he much *resembles in style — Derby*shire's batsmen continued the slaughter of the innocents.

*Only once before have Der*byshire made a bigger total than the 603 for six they achieved shortly after tea and, *with Sussex showing a deficit* of 492 with more than two days to go, they faced, as Franklyn Stephenson said as he left the field, "*a bit of an* uphill struggle".

He can say that again. *Sussex have already lost four* wickets in pursuit of the runs they need to make Derbyshire *bat again. This time*, Phillip DeFreitas has acted as destroyer-in-chief, although Devon Malcolm saw to it that Bill Athey bagged a pair.

Without Jarvis, the Sussex attack looked willing but *threadbare. First*, Adams turned his half-century into the hundred that seemed inevitably his. Then Cullinan, the youngest player, at 16, to score a first-class century in South Africa and the compiler of the highest first-class score, 337 not out, by a player in South Africa, became the first Der*byshire player to make a* century on debut.

As he was busily compiling his 134, it was clear that Cullinan *enjoys batting*. He has a ruthless quality that they will admire up here and he *has no shortage of strokes*, as 29 fours bore testimony.

With partnerships of 144 in 35 overs with Adams and 132 in 31 overs with Dominic Cork, Cullinan led Derbyshire to the biggest first-innings *lead they have ever achieved*.

With Jarvis out for a fortnight at least, Hemmings's *reaction at spending the best* part of a day in the field as substitute was a cause of some speculation. Not much speculation though about Derbyshire's intentions at the start of the day, even though Stephenson had Kim Barnett caught at slip after 20 minutes.

After that, it was Adams and Cullinan and a *sparkling* innings from Cork, surely a strong claimant for England honours.

Surrey shattered by seamers

By Pat Gibson

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with all second-innings wickets standing, are 101 runs behind Gloucestershire

SURREY went all the way to Western Australia to prepare *for their* 150th anniversary season. They may as well have gone to West Moseley for all the good *it did them on the* evidence of this feeble batting performance, which left them following on 175 runs behind Gloucestershire.

There was *no* excuse for the pitiful collapse that saw them lose their last eight wickets for 66 after Darren Bicknell and Mark Butcher had shared an opening stand of 92. Javagal Srinath, the *India fast bowler*, soon surprised Butcher with his pace, an attempted hook flying off a top edge over the wicketkeeper's *head, and the* openers could afford no liberties.

Even so, they could have been more positive, *particularly in their running* between the wickets. It may be churlish to criticise Butcher, who is still *recovering from a groin operation* that prevents him from bowling and who battled well for four hours to make 71, but the pair of *them look* as though they could do with a few hours studying videos of Taylor and Slater, of Australia.

They had struggled along at only two runs an over when *Bicknell, driving at a wideish* ball from Alleyne, edged to gulley, whereupon Srinath produced his best spell for *Stewart. The England opener* had managed only two singles in half an hour before he was leg-before playing back.

Cooper dismissed Brown and Butcher in successive overs and, with Surrey's lengthy tail exposed. Smith *finished the innings with three* wickets for four runs in 17 balls. It was the first time Surrey had been forced to *follow on against Gloucester*shire since 1933. They batted much more positively in their second innings, although *Srinath was unable to bowl* because of a stiff shoulder.

Australia strain against tide

From Simon Wilde
in Kingston, Jamaica

NOTHING but victory will do for Australia in the fourth and final Test match *starting here today. They* came to the Caribbean with the aim of replacing West *Indies* as world champions, but, after being pegged back to 1-1 in the series in controversial circumstances at Port of Spain earlier this week, a huge task now confronts them.

Though *they would not* admit it, the tide has turned against them and their best *hope may be an honourable* draw, especially as the pitches at Sabina Park this season *have* favoured batsmen more than in recent years.

"I still believe that we are the better side," Bob Simpson, the Australia coach, said yesterday. "Our record in the first two matches showed that. We have dominated except *for that* aberration in Trinidad."

Whatever part the substandard Trinidad pitch *may have played*, the Australia batsmen are woefully short of runs — all except Steve Waugh, who averages 78 *in the series — while* Walsh and Ambrose are in predatory mood. The West Indies pair claimed 15 wick-*ets, at a rate of one every 23* balls, in Trinidad.

Warne, of Australia, has had a subdued series, taking *only nine wickets at 29 each* and conceding three runs an over, but a pitch with bounce may be as much to his liking *as to Ambrose's*.

Croft sweeps to maiden century

By Alan Lee

TAUNTON (second day of four): Somerset, with all second-innings wickets standing, are 123 runs behind Glamorgan

LAST summer was a chastening experience for Glamorgan. *Faced with unfamiliar* expectation, they responded so lamely that the advances made in 1993 were widely dismissed as a freak. Such disdain is premature, judging by the abrasive way they have *approached this game, dictat*ing terms to Somerset who, by comparison, have looked *unprepared*.

If it was their good fortune to be batting yesterday, when the pitch was benign, Glamorgan *exploited it ruthlessly*. They scored their runs at upwards of four an over, refusing to be cowed by the reputation *or animation* of Mushtaq Ahmed. Among several assertive innings, much the best was a maiden championship century from Robert Croft.

After two England A tours, Croft's career lost its impetus. His off-spin *lacked penetra*tion and his batting lacked confidence, but a winter spent working on his game has revitalised him and, *here*, his batting was a revelation. He drove with absolute certainty and, once past 100, Somerset had no idea *how* to bowl to him as he sprinted to 143 from 147 balls. It was decidedly not *the innings* of one who had played for six years without a century and it might just be the making of him.

Not the least impressive factor was that he came in with Somerset enjoying their best spell of the day. In mid-afternoon, *they had dismissed* Dale, Hemp and Cottey to leave Glamorgan on 183 for *four, still* 94 behind.

A positive opening stand of 82 in 18 overs between James and Dale was launched against two seamers, in Caddick and van Troost, who looked short of full fitness. Mushtaq was *summoned for* the seventh over and his luckless first spell was *puntuated by strangled cries*.

But even when they lost James, driving recklessly, Glamorgan kept their foot on the accelerator.

Dale misjudged Rose's outswing and had his middle stump plucked out, but Hemp *had already swung Caddick* effortlessly for six when he mistimed a drive to cover. Mushtaq's googly baffled Cottey, *whereupon Croft* achieved the rare distinction of outscoring Maynard, as they put on 121, and eclipsing Thomas, *who managed nine* of a stand worth 74.

Richard Montgomerie (182) and David Capel (167) put on 337 for the Northamptonshire sixth wicket at Canterbury, 39 short of the *county record but* the best for the wicket by any side against Kent. James Bovill, the young Hampshire fast bowler, improved his career-best figures for the second successive day, following six for 39 in the Durham *first innings* with six for 29 in the second.

SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Sussex

DERBY (second day of four): Sussex, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 424 runs behind Derbyshire.

SUSSEX: First innings 111 (D E Malcolm 6 for 61)

Second Innings

N J Lenham lbw b DeFreitas	27
C W J Athey c sub b Malcolm	0
J W Hall lbw b DeFreitas	9
*A P Wells not out	21
K Greenfield lbw b Cork	5
I D K Salisbury not out	2
Extras (b 1, lb 1, nb 2)	4
Total (4 wkts)	68

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-26, 3-55, 4-66.

BOWLING: Malcolm 7-0-27-1; Cork 7-2-19-1; DeFreitas 9-2-20-2.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

*K J Barnett c Greenfield b Stephenson	164
A S Rollins c Greenfield b Giddins	52
C J Adams run out	111
D J Cullinan c sub b Giddins	134
T J G O'Gorman lbw b Stephenson	17
D G Cork not out	84
P A J DeFreitas c Lenham b Giddins	4
C M Wells not out	2
Extras (b 4, lb 22, w 1, nb 8)	35
Total (6 wkts dec, 151.1 overs)	603

Score at 120 overs: 475-4

A E Warner, †K M Krikken and D E Malcolm did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-189, 2-281, 3-425, 4-454, 5-586, 6-590.

BOWLING: Stephenson 29-3-117-2; Jarvis 2.3-0-11-0; Remy 22.3-4-114-0; Giddins 41-2-157-3, Salisbury 41-13-116-0; Athey 2-0-15-0, Greenfield 13.1-1-45-0.

Bonus Points: Derbyshire 8 Sussex 1

Umpires: P Willey and K E Palmer.

Durham v Hampshire

STOCKTON (second day of four): Hampshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, require 231 runs to beat Durham.

DURHAM: First Innings 177 (J N B Bovill 6 for 39)

Second Innings

*M A Roseberry c Aymes b Streak	0
W Larkins c Terry b Bovill	31
J E Morris c Morris b Bovill	28
J A Daley lbw b Bovill	33
M Prabhakar lbw b Connor	64
M Saxelby c Streak b Connor	18
†C W Scott b Connor	1
J Wood b Bovill	8
J Boiling lbw b Bovill	0
S J E Brown not out	6
M M Betts c White b Bovill	6
Extras (lb 8, w 4, nb 19)	31
Total	248

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-64, 3-71, 4-150, 5-199, 6-213, 7-224, 8-226, 9-236.

BOWLING: Streak 16-2-46-1; Connor 17-2-66-3; Udal 22-3-68-0; Bovill 16.5-8-29-6; Stephenson 9-2-31-0.

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

J P Stephenson lbw b Prabhakar	8
V P Terry lbw b Brown	11
R S M Morris lbw b Wood	10
R A Smith c Saxelby b Wood	12
*M C J Nicholas lbw b Betts	15
G W White lbw b Prabhakar	16
†A N Aymes lbw b Prabhakar	0
S D Udal b Betts	42
H H Streak c Morris b Wood	32
C A Connor b Betts	0
J N B Bovill not out	6
Extras (lb 16, w 1, nb 25)	42
Total (63.2 overs)	194

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-25, 3-46, 4-51, 5-89, 6-102, 7-113, 8-185, 9-185.

BOWLING: Brown 21-6-50-1; Prabhakar 22-9-36-3; Wood 12-1-57-3; Betts 8.2-3-35-3.

Second Innings

J P Stephenson lbw b Brown	0
V P Terry not out	1
C A Connor not out	0
Total (1 wkt)	1

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0.

BOWLING: Brown 2-2-0-1; Betts 2-1-1-0.

Bonus Points: Durham 4 Hampshire 4.

Umpires: B Dudleston and A G T Whitehead.

Essex v Leicestershire

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Leicestershire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 75 runs behind Essex.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings 253 (N E Briers 114; N F Williams 5 for 93, M C Ilott 4 for 78)

Second Innings

T J Boon c Hussain b Williams	15
*N E Briers not out	23
W J Cronje not out	38
Total (1 wkt)	76

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29.

BOWLING: Ilott 7-1-34-0; Williams 7-0-22-1; Irani 6-3-7-0; Such 6-1-13-0.

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gooch c Whitticase b Wells	139
*P J Prichard c Millns b Cronje	63
J J B Lewis run out	2
D M Cousins c Wells b Mullally	13
N Hussain c Robinson b Millns	100
D D J Robinson run out	24
R C Irani lbw b Parsons	17
†R J Rollins b Millns	11
M C Ilott c Boon b Wells	5
N F Williams c Whitticase b Wells	12
P M Such not out	5
Extras (lb 9, w 1, nb 2)	12
Total (128.2 overs)	404

Score at 120 overs: 379-7

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-138, 2-148, 3-194, 4-233, 5-300, 6-342, 7-374, 8-379, 9-385.

BOWLING: Millns 31-6-120-2; Mullally 32-7-93-1; Parsons 31-9-84-1; Wells 20.2-5-60-3; Cronje 13-4-23-1; Pierson 1-0-9-0.

Bonus Points: Essex 8 Leicestershire 5

Umpires: D J Constant and R Julian.

Kent v Northamptonshire

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Kent, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 304 runs behind Northamptonshire.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings

R R Montgomerie c Marsh b Patel	192
A Fordham b Ealham	36
R J Bailey c Marsh b McCague	3
M B Loye c Patel b McCague	3
*A J Lamb b Ealham	54
K M Curran c Walker b Ealham	11
D J Capel c Ward b Patel	167
A Kumble not out	35
J G Hughes c Ward b Headley	7
Extras (b 11, lb 10, w 18, nb 14)	53
Total (8 wkts dec, 158.5 overs)	561

Score at 120 overs: 382-5

†D Ripley and J P Taylor did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-90, 3-98, 4-156, 5-172, 6-509, 7-542, 8-561.

BOWLING: McCague 22-2-105-2; Headley 37.5-9-112-1; Fleming 23-5-87-0; Ealham 38-10-114-3; Patel 43-8-122-2.

KENT: First Innings

T R Ward lbw b Kumble	76
*M R Benson b Capel	42
M J Walker b Curran	34
P A deSilva c and b Curran	2
N R Taylor c Bailey b Kumble	30
M V Fleming not out	41
Extras (b 8, lb 12, nb 12)	32
Total (5 wkts, 58 overs)	257

M A Ealham, †S A Marsh, M M Patel, D W Headley and M J McCague to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-90, 2-174, 3-176, 4-176, 5-257

BOWLING: Taylor 11-1-55-0; Hughes 10-0-47-0, Capel 7-0-40-1; Kumble 21-8-45-2; Curran 9-2-50-2.

Bonus Points: Kent 4 Northamptonshire 6

Umpires: V A Holder and B Leadbeater.

Somerset v Glamorgan

TAUNTON (second day of four): Somerset, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 123 runs behind Glamorgan.

SOMERSET: First Innings

M N Lathwell run out	21
M E Trescothick c Metson b Thomas	0
P D Bowler lbw b Watkin	10
R J Harden b Thomas	113
*A N Hayhurst c and b Croft	24
†R J Turner b Kendrick	20
G D Rose c Metson b Thomas	18
Mushtaq Ahmed c Metson b Dale	4
A R Caddick lbw b Watkin	31
H R J Trump not out	13
A P van Troost c Metson b Watkin	6
Extras (b 4, lb 4, w 9)	17
Total (120.1 overs)	277

Score at 120 overs: 277-9

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-28, 3-43, 4-88, 5-134, 6-166, 7-171, 8-248, 9-268.

BOWLING: Watkin 28.1-6-55-3; Thomas 26-5-98-3; Lefebvre 22-7-36-0; Dale 16-5-37-1; Croft 21-13-26-1; Kendrick 7-3-17-1.

Second Innings

M N Lathwell not out	3
M E Trescothick not out	2
Total (no wkt)	5

BOWLING: Watkin 1-0-5-0; Croft 1-1-0-0.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James c Turner b van Troost	36
A Dale b Rose	60
D L Hemp c Harden b Rose	46
*M P Maynard c Trump b Rose	62
P A Cottey lbw b Mushtaq	12
R D B Croft c Bowler b Rose	143
S D Thomas run out	9
N M Kendrick c Turner b Rose	0
R P Lefebvre b van Troost	13
†C P Metson not out	8
S L Watkin c Bowler b van Troost	0
Extras (lb 3, w 3, nb 10)	16
Total (93.5 overs)	405

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-145, 3-160, 4-183, 5-304, 6-378, 7-378, 8-397, 9-397

BOWLING: Caddick 14-3-60-0; van Troost 15.5-3-72-3; Mushtaq Ahmed 35-4-135-1; Trump 10-1-57-0; Rose 19-2-78-5

Bonus Points: Somerset 5 Glamorgan 8.

Umpires: T E Jesty and R A White.

Surrey v Gloucestershire

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 101 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Gloucestershire.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 392 (A Symonds 161 not out, R I Dawson 51; J E Benjamin 4 for 77)

SURREY: First Innings

D J Bicknell c Wright b Alleyne	42
M A Butcher c Russell b Cooper	71
*A J Stewart lbw b Srinath	2
A D Brown c Hodgson b Cooper	15
A J Hollioake lbw b Smith	27
Nadeem Shahid run out	6
†G J Kersey c Russell b Srinath	12
M P Bicknell c Russell b Smith	9
R W Nowell c Russell b Srinath	0
S G Kenlock not out	4
J E Benjamin lbw b Smith	0
Extras (b 1, lb 7, nb 20)	28
Total (90.4 overs)	217

FALL OF WICKETS:

BOWLING: Srinath 25-5-83-3; Smith 26.4-11-60-3; Ball 5-1-9-0; Cooper 20-7-22-2; Alleyne 13-4-35-1.

Second Innings

D J Bicknell not out	33
M A Butcher not out	39
Extras (lb 1, w 1)	2
Total (no wkt)	74

BOWLING: Smith 3-0-13-0, Cooper 5-0-24-0; Alleyne 7-1-24-0; Ball 6-1-9-0; Lynch 2-0-3-0.

Bonus Points: Surrey 5 Gloucestershire 8

Umpires: B J Meyer and J C Balderstone.

Warwickshire v Middlesex

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 191 runs ahead of Middlesex.

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 282 (N V Knight 85, R G Twose 86, D P Ostler 57; P C R Tufnell 4 for 55, J E Emburey 4 for 31)

Second Innings

A J Moles b Fraser	0
N V Knight c Brown b Nash	72
R G Twose c Ramprakash b Nash	28
D P Ostler lbw b Tufnell	12
T L Penney not out	20
R P Davis not out	0
Extras (b 1, nb 2)	3
Total (4 wkts)	133

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-45, 3-67, 4-133.

BOWLING: Fraser 8-1-22-1; Nash 9-3-31-2; Tufnell 11-3-49-1; Emburey 8-2-15-0; Follett 8-3-15-0.

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

*M W Gatting c Burns b Donald	8
J C Pooley c Burns b Donald	8
M R Ramprakash lbw b Small	85
J D Carr c Knight b Donald	11
P N Weekes c Knight b Donald	36
†K R Brown lbw b Donald	1
D J Nash b Donald	33
J E Emburey b Small	4
A R C Fraser not out	15
D Follett c Ostler b Smith	1
P C R Tufnell lbw b Reeve	0
Extras (b 5, lb 8, nb 9)	22
Total (69.2 overs)	224

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-25, 3-53, 4-119, 5-123, 6-186, 7-198, 8-202, 9-223.

BOWLING: Donald 22-3-56-6; Small 20-2-52-2; Davis 15-4-60-0; Smith 5-1-18-1; Reeve 7.2-1-25-1.

Bonus Points: Warwickshire 6 Middlesex 5

Umpires: G I Burgess and J H Hampshire.

University matches

Cambridge University v Nottinghamshire

FENNER'S (second day of three): Nottinghamshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 483 runs ahead of Cambridge University.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 415 for 8 dec (C L Cairns 110, R T Robinson 101, P Johnson 73, K P Evans 53; A R Whittall 4 for 131)

Second Innings

M P Dowman not out	102
C Banton not out	55
Extras (lb 2, nb 2)	4
Total (no wkt)	161

BOWLING: Janisch 12-0-42-0; Whittall 22-10-30-0; Carroll 4-1-24-0; Hughes 11-2-26-0; Freeth 8-1-17-0; Yeabsley 4-0-20-0.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings

R T Ragnauth c Cairns b Afford	4
D E Stanley b Cairns	2
J Ratledge b Afford	23
†M J Birks c Banton b Cairns	2
J P Carroll lbw b Hindson	17
R A Battye b Pick	22
M I Yeabsley c Robinson b Hindson	0
*A R Whittall c French b Afford	11
A N Janisch lbw b Pick	4
E R Hughes lbw b Pick	0
J W O Freeth not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 5)	6
Total (82.4 overs)	91

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-11, 3-14, 4-40, 5-48, 6-48, 7-59, 8-86, 9-86.

BOWLING: Cairns 8-4-7-2; Pick 16.4-6-22-3; Mike 3-2-1-0; Afford 19-12-23-3; Hindson 9-4-15-2; Evans 7-2-17-0.

Umpires: K J Lyons and P B Wight.

Oxford University v Worcestershire

THE PARKS (second day of three): Worcestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 124 runs ahead of Oxford University.

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 320 for 7 dec (W P C Weston 100, T S Curtis 81)

Second Innings

D A Leatherdale not out	13
G R Haynes not out	15
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (no wkt)	29

BOWLING: MacRobert 5-0-14-0; Mather 3-1-13-0; Attfield 2-1-1-0.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings

*G I MacMillan st Rhodes b Illingworth	32
I J Sutcliffe c Rhodes b Newport	3
C M Gupte lbw b Haynes	60
A C Ridley c Rhodes b Lampitt	50
W S Kendall lbw b Newport	11
A S Malik c Church b Newport	6
J M Attfield b Newport	0
†M E D Jarrett lbw b Lampitt	4
A D MacRobert c Hick b Lampitt	0
J D Ricketts not out	22
D V Mather b Illingworth	6
Extras (lb 6, w 1, nb 24)	31
Total (84.4 overs)	225

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-88, 3-136, 4-170, 5-180, 6-180, 7-185, 8-185, 9-198.

BOWLING: Newport 21-7-51-4; Brinkley 14-3-49-0; Lampitt 17-6-49-3; Illingworth 21.4-7-47-2; Weston 1-0-4-0; Haynes 10-3-19-1.

Umpires: J W Holder and N T Plews.

Other match

Yorkshire v Lancashire

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Yorkshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 191 runs ahead of Lancashire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

*M D Moxon lbw b Watkinson	16
M P Vaughan b Martin	0
D Byas lbw b Yates	193
M G Bevan b Watkinson	0
C White b Gallian	72
†R J Blakey not out	77
A P Grayson c Atherton b Yates	15
D Gough lbw b Austin	11
P J Hartley not out	21
Extras (lb 2, w 2, nb 6)	10
Total (7 wkts dec, 112 overs)	417

R D Stemp and M A Robinson did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-57, 3-65, 4-216, 5-316, 6-352, 7-376.

BOWLING: Martin 22-5-75-1; Austin 27-7-70-1; Watkinson 20-5-86-2; Gallian 10-3-47-1; Yates 20-2-81-2; Keedy 13-2-56-0.

Second Innings

*M D Moxon not out	29
M P Vaughan lbw b Watkinson	0
M G Bevan not out	16
Total (1 wkt)	45

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3.

BOWLING. Watkinson 5-1-12-1; Gallian 3-1-18-0; Yates 2-0-15-0.

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

M A Atherton c Bevan b Robinson	129
J E R Gallian lbw b Hartley	8
N J Speak b Hartley	0
G D Lloyd c Byas b Gough	19
S P Titchard b Gough	2
*M Watkinson b White	23
I D Austin c Grayson b Robinson	48
†W K Hegg c White b Robinson	8
G Yates c Grayson b Gough	11
G Keedy not out	0
P J Martin abs	0
Extras (lb 8, w 2, nb 14)	24
Total (76 overs)	271

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-45, 3-78, 4-98, 5-140, 6-242, 7-254, 8-258, 9-271.

BOWLING: Gough 17-4-52-3; Robinson 19-9-47-3; Hartley 16-2-56-2; Stemp 7-1-23-0; White 6-0-38-1; Bevan 2-0-16-0; Vaughan 7-2-31-0.

Umpires: J H Harris and G Sharp.

Hendry pulls away from White before final stretch

By Phil Yates

WITH concentration restored after the disruptive euphoria of his maximum 147 break on Thursday, Stephen Hendry laid the foundation for yet another victory over Jimmy White in the Embassy world snooker championship at the Crucible Theatre yesterday.

When Hendry made that perfect clearance on Thursday he led 8-4, but his focus was shattered and White won the closing three frames of the session to trail only 8-7 overnight in their semi-final. Hendry was reportedly less than amused by his understandable, but potentially expensive, lapse. The defending champion, attempting to become the first player to win the title four successive times at the Crucible, made amends by forging 12-7 ahead when play resumed yesterday.

It was a frustrating spell for White who, despite producing his best snooker of the tournament, still found himself staring an embarrasingly heavy defeat in the face. Hendry's capture of the opening frame in the third session, a tense affair, set the pattern. The Scot, who had earlier missed a pink and the yellow twice, potted blue, pink and black after a misjudged positional shot had cost White the clearance he needed to level at 8-8.

The manner in which Hendry accounted for the seventeenth frame was considerably more emphatic, though. Hendry constructed a 121 clearance to earn an additional mention in a record book that he is beginning to monopolise. It was Hendry's fourth century of the match, his 47th in ten years of world championship involvement and his eighth in the event this year. That equalled the record he already jointly held with Steve Davis and John Parrott.

White looked certain to add to his score when he led 61-0 in the eighteenth frame. With the balls invitingly spread, however, he suffered a kick on a red that deprived him of position. Trailing 62-14 with only three reds remaining and the yellow seemingly safely tucked under the side cushion, it was rightly felt that even Hendry's ability to produce a telling clearance would be stretched to the limit.

Yet fashioning a psychologically damaging clearance is one of Hendry's trade marks and when he drifted the yellow in to a balk pocket, clipped in a difficult brown under pressure and stole the frame on the black, White's doleful expression said it all.

At 12-7, Hendry had seized the match by the scruff of the neck, so it came as something of a shock when he missed a straightforward black at 59-14 in the next frame and White eventually constructed a 39 clearance for 12-8.

The ever-popular Londoner, beaten by Hendry in the climax to the 1990 championship and in the final here for each of the last three years, then added the 21st frame with a 52 break. Hendry, briefly, appeared vulnerable, but briefly was the operative word. From little more than a half-chance in the closing frame of the session, Hendry compiled a decisive run of 69 to leave himself requiring only three of scheduled remaining nine frames for a record-breaking nineteenth consecutive match win at the Crucible. To avoid retaining an unwanted reputation as the championship's perennial "nearly man" for a further 12 months at least, White needed to take seven frames.

The winner will meet Nigel Bond, the world No 11, in a best-of-35 frame final this weekend. Bond guaranteed himself at least £115,000, and thereby more than trebled his prize money this season, by beating Andy Hicks 16-11 in the other semi-final.

Bond resumed with a 15-7 lead, but, when Hicks sprinted through the following four frames in 46 minutes with breaks of 136, 79, 67 and 79, it was impossible to discount a similarly miraculous comeback to the one Bond produced, to recover from 2-9 down to beat Cliff Thornburn 10-9 in the first round of the championship last year.

Bond, who completed his victory with a run of 54, said: "When I came here, all I wanted to do was win my first game. The rest has been unbelievable."

Bond succumbed 10-5 to Hendry in the 1990 Grand Prix final and has beaten the world No 1 only once in nine attempts. In contrast, he has recorded five victories in seven meetings against White.

N Bond (Eng) bt A Hicks (Eng) 16-11
Frame scores (Bond first): 66-73, 63-39, 74-18, 127-0, 59-38, 61-47, 70-45, 102-14, 8-62, 89-41, 0-87, 78-0, 72-58, 74-0, 63-59, 72-35, 56-65, 66-3, 47-55, 54-66, 24-69, 84-16; 0-136; 0-79; 20-103; 42-79; 65-21.

S Hendry (Scot) leads J White (Eng) 13-8
Frame scores (Hendry first): 28-77, 67-2, 69-24, 1-73, 84-0, 73-1, 8-74, 105-27, 86-20, 0-93, 119-11, 147-0, 39-87, 9-81, 17-82, 63-52, 121-16, 63-62, 78-5, 59-61, 11-83, 73-0.

Cantona must repay United's faith

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

The die is cast, or so it would seem. We get to keep Eric Cantona: we lose, in all probability, Jürgen Klinsmann.

It is like the season so far; one eye laughs and the other weeps. Cantona and Klinsmann can be compared, but not on equal terms. They are our two most famous foreigners: the Frenchman, so volatile, so untrustworthy, yet with the touch of genius; the German, who has done remarkable things to English-German relationships, who has brought us competitive honesty with a smile on the face of his football.

If indeed he goes to finish his career with Bayern Munich, the deal, retaining Cantona and saying farewell to Klinsmann, is our loss.

The £2 million that apparently was wiped off the shares of Tottenham Hotspur at the suggestion, and that for the moment is all that it is, of Klinsmann being repatriated is testimony enough to our feelings towards him. It is a phenomenal tribute, given that he came with the reputation of being a cheat. He has not been that in the past nine months; he has, in form and temperament, been all that you would wish a son to be.

What of Cantona? At his re-signing ceremony yesterday, he wore a candy-striped pink jacket. There were no trawler, no seagulls: the brooding presence of a month ago had gone. "I can forget everything, and we can win everything," he said, describing Manchester United as the best side "maybe" in the world. "We are bigger than the people who have sometimes been so hard and so wrong," he concluded. Asked if he could handle further provocation, provocation that implies that he will be put in a bear pit of the worst imaginable English-style baiting, he smiled and responded: "Easy . . . easy."

It is anything but that. The test, should it come from October onwards, will as much be of English character and fairness as of the Frenchman's volatility. The majesty of his touch and the madness in his make-up are well known by now. I do not believe, even now, that the two are separable. Does anyone believe Vesuvius will never erupt again? Does anyone know of a surgeon capable of a mind transplant?

The questions are only half in jest. Cantona, clearly, believes he can grow into the behaviour that is acceptable. Manchester United have made an astonishing act of trust, not only taking him back but doing so on terms that allegedly could pay Cantona £3 million over three years.

To do this when it is evident that his kick at Selhurst Park on January 25 was a gift that turned the championship towards Blackburn Rovers demonstrates the depth of faith that the famous club has in the player who had been the catalyst, the inspiration, for two championship triumphs.

One could see, even in the relief yesterday, the loss of equilibrium, the cost to peace of mind, of Alex Ferguson, the manager. Yet his was the original gamble on Cantona, and his, you can be sure, the most persuasive voice in keeping him.

Also on the podium, this time a silent witness, was Maurice Watkins, the United lawyer. One wonders what was in the silence, one wonders what is in the contract to safeguard United in the event of a falling-out.

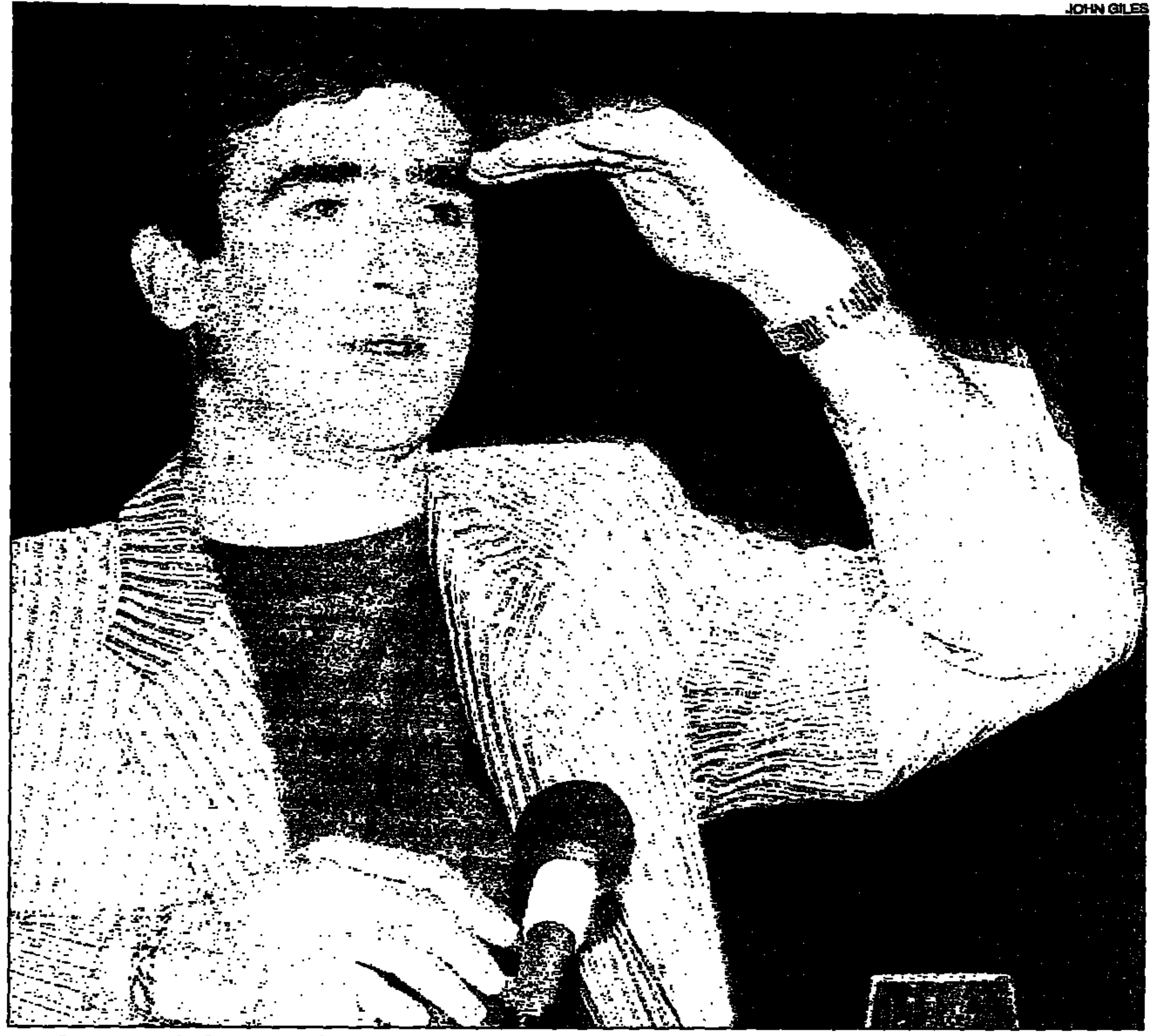
Cantona's skill is extraordinary by any standards. He has more innate touch and feel for the ball and more vision as a player even than Klinsmann. Yet unless the fans, the malign hostility of whom one fears will be stoked up wherever he performs, are won over by him, how will he suppress the flashpoint? No one, not even Eric Cantona can say.

"I've tried to correct myself, but I've lost my game," he said months ago, months before his loss of control at Selhurst Park. Yet my mind was captured by a small, bespectacled boy standing with him on the first day of his coaching on 120 hours' community service.

"He were terrific, showed me I could score," the cherubic lad said. "He told me to concentrate on one corner of the net, to aim for that and now I score every time." Some teacher. If you could give that boy one Christmas gift, it would be the skill of Cantona. And if there was one special gift you would wish for the Frenchman, it would be the mind of an adult, or even of a sensible adolescent, that he might stop throwing away his inheritance.

It has all been said, pondered and philosophied before. From Auxerre to Arsenal, from Marseilles to Manchester, he has thrilled us and appalled us. In the end, his own musings again hold the key: "Let us not forget that the place of truth for an athlete is, and always will be, the stadium." Let us hope so.

JOHN GILES



Cantona looks forward to the day — in October — when he will next be free to play for Manchester United

Money matters most after cheering stops

By Russell Kempson

FROM late April to early May, in the FA Carling Premiership and the Endsleigh Insurance League, issues are decided by character and resolve. Who wants promotion the most? Who can scrap the hardest to avoid relegation? Skill often takes a back seat and monetary matters rarely enter the argument. It is about drama and emotion.

When the battlefields have been cleared, though, the financial implications can create horrendous indigestion. Loss of Premiership status has been estimated at £2 million, plus all its associated trauma. For at least a year ahead, many players will be commanding Carling wages amid Endsleigh environs. For the promoted few, there are wage increases to consider, extra security and previously unencountered red tape. As the players head off for Disneyland or Devon, club officials set about trawling through the administrative minefield.

At the top end, those at Tottenham Hotspur will have plenty to keep themselves amused with over the summer. The future of Jürgen Klinsmann, the Germany striker, is high on the agenda, but, more puzzingly, what on earth should they do with Ilie Dumitrescu, the Romania midfield player, who was signed for £2.72 million from Steaua Bucharest last year.

Dumitrescu was loaned to Sevilla, of Spain, after Gerry Francis, the new Tottenham manager, deemed him surplus to his requirements when he succeeded Osvaldo Ardiles at White Hart Lane in November. It has since been revealed that Dumitrescu pocketed £544,303 from the initial deal, which he claimed was entirely legitimate. "The sum was awarded to me by Steaua as a normal consequence of a previous agreement between me and my former club," he said. "The payment is wholly legal." Dumitrescu has not been a success at Sevilla, either, and Francis will have to reassess what he does with such an awkward inheritance.

More immediately, his pursuit of a Uefa Cup place for Tottenham continues against Arsenal at Highbury tomorrow. Two weeks ago, it would have been considered a banker for the white-and-navy half of north London, but Arsenal have since won twice in the league and reached the Cup Winners' Cup final. It has just about lifted them clear of the relegation fray, but others still hover on the brink. Everton, FA Cup finalists they may be, are only one point above the drop zone and play Wimbledon at Goodison Park. Two more home games follow swiftly. "They will shape our destiny," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said. "Two wins should be enough."

Norwich City, with only one victory in 17 attempts this year, are in grave danger. The Norfolk natives are restless and, for the visit of Liverpool to Carrow Road, demonstrations against Robert Chase, the chairman, are planned. Ironically, Norwich is one of the most efficiently run and financially sound clubs in the Premiership. At the moment, though, money is irrelevant.

Enfield struggle on

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

ENFIELD may have sealed the Diadora League title on Thursday night when Slough Town were held to a 1-1 draw at Sutton United, but their struggle to regain the Vauxhall Conference place that they lost five years ago is far from over.

The club, previously second three times in four years, has been told that its application does not meet the financial criteria laid down by the Conference, which demands that their current assets must exceed their liabilities.

Tony Lazarou, the Enfield chairman, remains defiant. "We're flying," he said. "It's just an obstacle we've got to get over. I don't want to prejudice our talks with the Conference. We're still negotiating with them."

Slough, relegated from the Conference last season, would be acceptable if they stay in second place and complete ground improvements — mainly in adding extra seats — by the time that Wexham Park is inspected in the week after the end of the season.

Macclesfield Town, on a trip that takes in Bath today and Dover tomorrow, could clinch the Conference title this weekend after Woking drew 1-1 with Welling United on Thursday. Halifax Town, meanwhile, hope that their home match with Kidderminster Harriers does not prove to be their last. The Inland Revenue said yesterday that if £30,000 was paid by the end of next week, the club could pay the other £85,000 owed to it over 12 months.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket

FA Carling Premiership

(-) Arsenal v Tottenham
(1) Chelsea v Queens Park Rangers
(2) Crystal Palace v Nottingham Forest
(3) Everton v Wimbledon
(4) Leeds v Aston Villa
(5) *Leicester v Ipswich*
(6) Manchester City v Newcastle
(-) * Norwich v Liverpool
(7) Southampton v Sheffield Wednesday

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	39	26	8	5	78	35	86
Man Utd	38	23	9	6	70	24	78
Nottm Forest	39	20	10	9	67	40	70
Liverpool	37	19	10	8	61	30	67
Newcastle	38	19	10	9	61	41	67
Leeds	38	17	12	9	52	35	63
Tottenham	37	16	11	10	59	48	59
QPR	38	15	8	15	56	55	53
Wimbledon	38	15	7	16	46	63	52
Arsenal	39	13	10	16	50	46	49
Southampton	37	11	15	11	55	59	48
Man City	38	12	11	15	50	59	47
Sheff Wed	39	12	11	16	45	55	47
Chelsea	38	11	13	14	43	50	46
Coventry	38	11	13	14	39	56	46
Aston Villa	38	10	13	15	47	53	43
Everton	37	10	13	14	40	48	43
West Ham	37	11	9	17	38	46	42
Crystal Palace	37	10	12	15	28	38	42
Norwich	39	10	12	17	34	49	42
Leicester	39	5	9	25	40	77	24
Ipswich	38	6	6	26	33	86	24

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

(8) Barnsley v Sheffield Utd
(9) Bristol City v Reading
(10) Burnley v Sunderland
(11) Charlton v Port Vale
(12) Derby v Southend
(—) Grimsby v Wolverhampton
(13) Notts County v Watford
(—) * Oldham v Bolton
(14) Stoke v Millwall
(15) * Swindon v Portsmouth

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	44	22	12	10	64	38	78
Bolton	43	21	12	10	64	40	75
Tranmere	43	22	8	13	64	51	74
Wolves	43	21	10	12	75	58	73
Reading	44	21	10	13	54	42	73
Barnsley	43	19	11	13	59	47	68
Derby	44	18	12	14	64	47	66
Sheff Utd	44	16	17	11	70	52	65
Grimsby	44	17	13	14	61	53	64
Watford	43	17	13	13	48	44	64
Millwall	44	16	13	15	56	55	61
Luton	44	15	13	16	58	59	58
Charlton	43	16	10	17	66	61	58
Port Vale	44	15	11	18	56	62	56
Oldham	43	15	11	17	55	57	56
Southend	44	16	8	20	49	71	56
Stoke	43	14	14	15	42	47	56
Portsmouth	44	14	12	18	50	62	54
West Brom	44	15	9	20	44	54	54
Sunderland	44	12	16	16	38	42	52
Swindon	43	11	11	21	50	70	44
Burnley	44	11	11	22	47	72	44
Bristol City	44	11	11	22	40	60	44
Notts County	43	8	12	23	40	62	36

SCHOOLS MATCHES: *English Eagles Trophy*: Semi-final: Brighton v Bromley (at Goldstone Road, 10.30). London Crisp Shield: Final: Barking v Waltham Forest (10.30). Essex Welsh Shield: Semi-final: *Newham v Harlow* (at Langdon, 10.30). Inter County: Inner London v Middlesex (at Douglas Eyes, 11.0). Woodward Cup: Semi-final: Liverpool v Bury (at Penny Lane, 10.30).

Second division

(16) Birmingham v Brighton
(—) Bradford v Blackpool
(17) Brentford v Bournemouth
(18) Cambridge Utd v Huddersfield
(19) Cardiff v Bristol Rovers
(20) Chester v Leyton Orient
(21) Hull v Wrexham
(22) Oxford Utd v Swansea P
(23) * Shrewsbury v Crewe
(24) Stockport v Peterborough
(25) Wycombe v Plymouth
(26) York v Rotherham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	43	24	12	7	79	33	84
Brentford	44	25	9	10	78	35	84
Huddersfield	44	22	14	8	77	46	80
Bristol Rovers	44	21	15	8	67	38	78
Crewe	43	23	7	13	75	65	76
Wycombe	44	20	15	9	58	44	75
Oxford Utd	44	21	11	12	64	49	74
York	44	20	8	16	64	50	68
Hull	43	19	11	13	68	51	68
Swansea	44	18	14	12	55	43	68
Stockport	44	19	7	18	62	58	64
Wrexham	44	16	15	13	63	60	63
Blackpool	44	17	10	17	62	68	61
Bradford	43	16	11	16	57	52	59
Peterborough	44	14	16	14	52	67	58
Brighton	44	13	16	15	50	50	55
Rotherham	44	13	14	17	56	59	53
Shrewsbury	44	13	14	17	53	57	53
Cambridge Utd	44	10	14	20	50	68	44
Bournemouth	44	11	11	22	44	68	44
Plymouth	44	11	9	24	42	81	42
Cardiff	44	9	10	25	46	73	37
Leyton Orient	44	6	8	30	30	73	26
Chester	44	4	11	29	35	84	23

Third division

(27) Barnet v Northampton
(28) Colchester v Carlisle
(29) Darlington v Chesterfield
(30) Doncaster v Scarborough
(31) Exeter v Fulham
(32) Gillingham v Hereford
(33) Lincoln v Bury
(34) Mansfield v Torquay
(35) Preston v Hartlepool
(36) Rochdale v Wigan
(37) Walsall v Scunthorpe

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	39	25	10	4	63	27	85
Chesterfield	39	22	11	6	56	33	77
Walsall	39	22	10	7	71	38	76
Bury	39	21	10	8	68	35	73
Mansfield	40	18	10	12	80	54	64
Preston	40	18	10	12	54	39	64
Scunthorpe	40	17	8	15	65	60	59
Doncaster	40	16	10	14	55	40	58
Colchester	40	16	9	15	54	61	57
Fulham	40	14	14	12	54	54	56
Barnet	40	15	11	14	52	57	56
Lincoln	40	14	11	15	51	51	53
Torquay	40	13	12	15	49	54	51
Wigan	40	13	10	17	50	57	49
Rochdale	40	11	14	15	43	62	47
Hereford	40	11	12	17	42	60	45
Darlington	40	11	8	21	42	54	41
Gillingham	40	10	10	20	45	61	40
Hartlepool	40	10	10	20	40	64	40
Northampton	40	8	14	18	40	64	38
Scarborough	40	8	10	22	48	67	34
Exeter	40	8	10	22	35	67	34

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Altrincham v Merthyr
(—) Bath v Macclesfield
(—) Farnborough v Southport
(—) Halifax v Kidderminster
(—) *Kettering v Yeovil*
(—) Northwich v Welling
(—) Stafford v Dover
(—) Stevenage v Runcorn
(—) Telford v Bromsgrove
(—) Woking v *Stalybridge*

Beazer Homes League
Premier division

(—) Atherstone v Gloucester
(—) Chelmsford v Trowbridge
(—) Cheltenham v Cambridge City
(—) Corby v Gravesend and Northfit
(—) Dorchester v Halesowen
(—) Gresley v Sittingbourne
(—) Hastings v Burton
(38) Hednesford v Leek
(39) Solihull v VS Rugby
(40) Sudbury v *Crawley*
(41) Worcester v Rushden

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(42) Dundee Utd v Hibernian
(43) Falkirk v Celtic
(44) Hearts v Aberdeen
(45) Kilmarnock v Partick
(46) *Rangers v Motherwell*

First division

(47) Dunfermline v Airdrie
(48) Hamilton v Ayr
(49) St Johnstone v Raith
(50) St Mirren v Dundee
(51) *Stranraer v Clydebank*

Second division

(52) Berwick v Greenock Morton
(53) Clyde v *Stenhousemuir*
(54) Dumbarton v Queen Of South
(55) East Fife v Stirling
(56) Meadowbank v Brechin

Third division

(57) Alloa v Albion
(58) Arbroath v Caley This
(—) Montrose v East Stirling
(—) Queen's Park v *Forfar*
(—) Ross County v Cowdenbeath

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Ashford v Bashley; Baldock v Tonbridge AFC; Clevedon v Bury Town; *Fareham v Braintree*; Fisher 93 v Weston-super-Mare; Havant v Burnham, Newport IOW v Margate; Poole v Witney; Waterlooville v Salisbury, Wealdstone v Weymouth; Yate v *Erith and Belvedere*. Midland division: Bedworth v Rothwell; Buckingham Town v Tamworth; Dudley Town v Nuneaton; Forest Green v Leicester United; Grantham v Moor Green; Ilkeston v Evesham; Newport A.F.C. v Hinckley Town; RC Warwick v King's Lynn; Redditch v Bilston; Stourbridge v Bridgnorth; Sutton Coldfield v Armitage.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Dulwich; Bromley v Chesham, Enfield v Walton and Hersham; Harrow v Sutton United; Hayes v Hendon; Hitchin v Marlow; *Kingstonian v Yeading*; Molesey v Slough; Purfleet v St Albans; Wokingham v *Bishop's Stortford*. *First division*: Barking v Wembley, Basingstoke v Billericay; *Berkhamsted v Whyteleafe*; Dorking v Boreham Wood; Newbury v Leyton; Ruislip Manor v Abingdon Town; Staines v Heybridge Swifts; Tooting and Mitcham v *Aldershot Town*; Uxbridge v *Chertsey*; Wivenhoe v Bognor Regis; Worthing v Maidenhead. Second division: Banstead v Ware; Bracknell v Metropolitan Police; Chalfont St Peter v Oxford City; Cheshunt v Hemel Hempstead; Croydon v Malden Vale; Edgware v Aveley; Hampton v *Hungerford*; Thame v Saffron Walden; Tilbury v Leatherhead; Windsor and Eton v Barton; *Witham v Egham*. *Third division*: Clapton v Bedford Town, Cove v Epsom and Ewell; *East Thurrock v Camberley*; Feltham and Hounslow v Northwood, Flackwell Heath v Leighton, Harefield v Canvey Island; Hertford v Southall; Hornchurch v Lewes; Horsham v Harlow; Tring v Collier Row.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Gainsborough; Boston v Spennymoor; Colwyn Bay v Chorley; Emley v Hyde; Guiseley v Droylsden; Marine v Bishop Auckland; Matlock v Barrow; *Morecambe v Buxton*, Winsford v Witton. First division: Alfreton v Gretna; *Atherton LR v Goole; Blyth Spartans v* Farsley Celtic; Caernarfon v Netherfield; Eastwood Town v *Mossley; Fleetwood v* Ashton United; Great Harwood v Harrogate Town; Lancaster v Congleton, Workington v Bamber Bridge, Worksop v Warrington.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry v Newtown (2.30); Caersws v Conwy; *Flint* Town v Afan Lido (2.30); Inter Cardiff v *Bangor City (at Maesteg)*; Llanelli v Maesteg Park; Llansantffraid v Ebbw Vale; *Mold v Ton Pentre*.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Ford, East Ham v Maldon; Great Wakering Rovers v Hullbridge Sports; Southend Manor v Romford

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Brook House; *Cockfosters v St Margaretsbury*; Croydon v Amersham; Hanwell v Corinthian-Casuals; Haringey v *Beaconsfield Sycob*, Waltham Abbey v Hillingdon; Walthamstow Pennant v Tower Hamlets.

PARASOL COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Ashford, Bedfont v Cobham; Hartley Wintney v Chipstead, Netherne v Sandhurst; Peppard v *Farnham, Viking Sports v Horley*; Westfield v Godalming and Guildford.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey Town v Dunstable; Buckingham Athletic v Welwyn Garden City, Harpenden v Biggleswade; Hatfield v Letchworth Garden City; Milton Keynes v Wingate and Finchley; Potters Bar v Hoddesdon, Royston v Shillington.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Crediton v Bridport; Elmore v Calne, Frome v Tiverton; Liskeard v Westbury; Odd Down v Torrington; Paulton v Barnstaple; Saltash v Mangotsfield.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES *LEAGUE*: Premier division: Chatteris v Harwich and Parkeston, Cornard v Newmarket; Great Yarmouth v *Halstead; Histon* v Diss, Lowestoft v Hadleigh U; Sudbury v Soham, Tiptree v Wisbech; Wroxham v March.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: *Totton v Christchurch; Andover v* East Cowes, Bemerton Heath v Portsmouth, Bournemouth v Thatcham; Brockenhurst v Swanage and Herston, *Cowes Sports v Fleet*; Eastleigh v B.A.T., Gosport v Lymington; Petersfield v *Aerostructures*; Ryde Sports v Horndean, Wimborne v Downton.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v East Grinstead, Burgess Hill v Peacehaven/Telscombe, *Crowborough v Wick, Hailsham v Portfield*; Langney Sports v Shoreham; Oakwood v *Eastbourne Town*; Stamco v Pagham; Whitehawk v Ringmer.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Darenth Heathside; Cray v Slade Green, Crockenhill v Chatham, Dartford v Faversham, Deal v Kent Police, Furness v Canterbury; Greenwich v *Corinthian*; Ramsgate v Thamesmead; Sheppey v Folkestone Invicta; Whitstable v Herne Bay

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Cinderford v Carterton, Cirencester v Almondsbury; Highworth v Abingdon, North Leigh v Kintbury; Pegasus Juniors v Banbury; Swindon Supermarine v Fairford; Tuffley v Bicester.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: *Eynesbury v Boston; Kempston v Raunds*; Northampton Spencer v Desborough, *Stamford v Wootton, Stotfold v Bourne*; Newport Pagnell v Spalding.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell v Willenhall; Boldmere Swifts v Rushall; Halesowen Harr v Chasetown; Hinckley Athletic v Knypersley; Pershore v Boldmere St Michaels, Shepshed D v Rocester, Shifnal v Brierley Hill, West Midlands Police v Stapenhill.

SKOL MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bloxwich v Chelmsley; Coleshill v Olton Royale, Knowle v Sherwood Celtic, Northfield v Handrahan Timbers, Upton v *Meir KA; Shirley v Kings Heath*.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier Division: *Blakenall v Pelsall Villa*. Darlaston FC v Bilston; Hill Top v Gornal, Ludlow v Stafford F.C., Manders v Cradley, Stourport v Malvern; Tividale F C v Ettingshall; Westfields v Bloxwich.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold v Maltby MW, *Ashfield v Thackley*; Belper Town v Hallam, Brigg v Stocksbridge PS; Glasshoughton Wel. v North Ferriby; Liversedge v *Ossett* Town, Ossett Albion v Lincoln United, Pontefract Collieries v Pickering; Armthorpe Welfare v Hucknall.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES *LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers* v Newcastle Town, Bootle v Prescot; *Chadderton v Darwen, Glossop North End v* Salford, Holker Old Boys v Bradford Park *Avenue*; Kidsgrove v Penrith, Maine Road v Nantwich, Skelmersdale v Clitheroe; St Helens v Trafford.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v RTM Newcastle; Dunston F.B v Guisborough, Ferryhill v Murton; Northallerton v Whitby; Prudhoe v Shildon; Seaham Red Star v Consett, Tow Law v Peterlee; West *Auckland v Chester-le-Street*

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth v Southampton (2.0).

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool v Manchester Utd (at Haigh Avenue, Southport, 2.0).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Bangor; Ballyclare v *Omagh; Carrick v Larne*, Cliftonville v Crusaders; Coleraine v *Ballymena; Glentoran v Linfield*; Newry v Distillery; Portadown v Glenavon.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE: Promotion/relegation play-off, first-leg: Finn Harps v Athlone (7.30)

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Leyton Orient v Ipswich, Millwall v Tottenham, Norwich v Cambridge Utd, Portsmouth v Chelsea, Queens Park Rangers v Gillingham. Second division: Brighton v Brentford; Bristol City v Reading; Colchester v Southampton, Crystal Palace v Luton, Swindon v Oxford Utd, Tottenham v Wimbledon

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one; *Nottsborough v Ulysses*, Parkfield v Owens, St.Mary's Coll. v Southgate County. Senior two; *Albanian v Ealing Assoc*; Corinthians Casuals v Hale End Ath; Hadley v UCL Academicals. Senior three: Brent v Westerns, City of London v Birkbeck Coll., Colleans v Fulham Compton OB. Monovians v Woodhouseians. Senior four: Broadfields v Cardinal Pole OB. *Economicals v Hampstead Heathens*, Simmarobians v Mayfield Ath, Pegasus v *Bournemside*

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aldenhamians v Malvernians, Chigwellians v Etonians; Reptonians v Brentwoods. First division: Cholmelians v Salopians; Foresters v Bradfield, Witleians v Ardinians, Wykehamists v Westminsters

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v O Wisonians: Hamptonians v Glyn. Meadonians v Aloysians; Danes v Ignatians. Senior division two: Tenisonians R v Kingsburians, Edmontonians v Suttonians, Tiffinians v Wokingians. Senior two: Manorians v Westhamians, John Fisher v Camdenians. Senior three: Latymer v Chorleywood, Grocers v Phoenix R, Glyn R v Salvatorians

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First *division: Crouch End Vampires v South* Bank; East Barnet OG v NatWest Bank. Norsemen v *Civil Service, O.Latymerians v* Midland Bank. Second division: Stationers v Alexandra Park, Parkonians v Westminster Citizens, Kew Assoc v Parmeterians. Barclays Bank v Cuaco Third division: Salesians v Lyonian

CRICKET

11.0, third day of four

Britannic Assurance
County Championship

DERBY: Derbyshire v Sussex
STOCKTON: Durham v Hampshire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Leicestershire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Northamptonshire
TAUNTON: Somerset v Glamorgan
THE OVAL: Surrey v Gloucestershire
EDGBASTON: *Warwickshire v* Middlesex

University matches
11.0, final day of three
FENNER'S: *Cambridge University v* Nottinghamshire

11.30, final day of three
THE PARKS: Oxford University v *Worcestershire*

Other match
11.30, third day of four
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Lancashire

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser championship: *Semi-finals*: Sheffield Sharks v Worthing Bears (7.15); London Towers v Manchester *Giants (9.15) (Wembley Arena)*

CYCLING: Melton Olympic 25 miles (Syston, 2.0), Epsom CC 10 miles (Holmwood, 2.0)

LACROSSE: North Of England League: First division: Timperley v Ashton; Cheadle v Mellor; Stockport v Heaton Mersey, Sale v *Poynton*

SNOOKER: Embassy world championship (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield).

SPEEDWAY (7.30 unless stated): Premier League: Bradford v Edinburgh, Cradley Heath v Sheffield; Eastbourne v *Ipswich*; King's Lynn v Belle Vue; Swindon v *Glasgow*. British Academy Challenge: Berwick v Mildenhall, (7.0).

TENNIS: Men's and women's satellite tournament (Edinburgh).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Courage clubs championship
First division
Bath v *Sale*
Gloucester v Harlequins
Leicester v Bristol (2.30)
Wasps v Orrell
West Hartlepool v Northampton

Second division
Coventry v *Moseley*
Fylde v Wakefield
London Irish v Newcastle Gosforth
London Scottish v Saracens
Waterloo v Nottingham

Third division
Bedford v Richmond
Clifton v Rugby
Exeter v Blackheath
Harrogate v Rosslyn Park
Otley v Morley

Fourth division
Aspatria v Redruth
Havant v Plymouth
Leeds v Broughton Park
Reading v Askeans
Rotherham v Liverpool St Helens

Fifth division north
1.11 *Hereford v Kendal*

Heineken League
First division
Cardiff v Newport (2.30)
Dunvant v Newbridge (2.30)
Llanelli v Neath (2.30)
Pontypool v Bridgend (2.30)
Swansea v Abertillery (2.30)
Treorchy v Pontypridd (2.30)

Second division
Abercynon v Bonymaen (2.30)
Cross Keys v Tenby Utd (2.30)
Llanharan v Aberavon (2.30)
Maesteg v Llandovery (2.30)
Narberth v Ebbw Vale (2.30)
Penarth v South Wales Police (2.30)

THIRD DIVISION: Blaina v Builth Wells: Caerphilly v Aberavon Quins: Glamorgan Wdrs v Tondu, Pontypool Utd v Mountain Ash, Tredegar v Kenfig Hill, Ystradgynlais v Blackwood

CLUB MATCHES: Camborne v Brixham: *Lichfield* v Towcestrians: Met Police v Streatham and Croydon; Nuneaton v Bridgwater and Albion; Preston Grasshoppers v Nothern, Stourbridge v Hull Ionians; Walsall v Lydney, Weston-super-Mare v Devonport Services; Wharfedale v Morpeth.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Final
Leeds v Wigan
(at Wembley, (2.30)

HOCKEY

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (under-21) Royal Navy v Cheshire (Burnaby Road, Portsmouth 11.0), Kent v Essex (Polo Farm, Canterbury, 1.0).

WOMENS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (Cannock HC, Hatherton): Group A: Suffolk v Yorkshire, Gloucestershire v Suffolk, Yorkshire v Gloucestershire Group B: Surrey v *Staffordshire, Humberside v* Surrey, Staffordshire v Humberside

WELSH WOMENS CUP (WIS, Cardiff). Semi-finals: Swansea v Cardiff Ath, Newtown v Ardudwy.

CLUB MATCHES: Headington v Banbury, Pickwick v Crimson R Rhondda v Pontypridd, Wakefield v York, West Wilts v Frome

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership
West Ham v Blackburn (4.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Middlesbrough v Luton
West Bromwich v Tranmere (2.55)

Second division
Oxford Utd v Swansea (12.0)

Vauxhall Conference
Dover v Macclesfield (2.0)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Goole v Gretna.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Dr Martens Cup: Final Second leg: Leek v Hastings.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: *Premier division*: Liskeard v Mangotsfield

WOMEN'S FA CUP: Final: Liverpool v Arsenal.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Welsh Yeoman Shield: Final: Flintshire v Wolverhampton (at Caersws FC, 11.15).

RUGBY UNION

Representative matches
Wales u-19 v Scotland u-19
(at Llanelli, 3.0)
Wales Youth u-18 v Scotland u-18
(at Llanelli, 1.15)

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v Italy (Boroughmuir, 2.30).

CRICKET

11.0, final day of four

Britannic Assurance
County Championship

DERBY: Derbyshire v Sussex
STOCKTON: Durham v Hampshire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Leicestershire
CANTERBURY: Kent v *Northamptonshire*
TAUNTON: Somerset v Glamorgan
THE OVAL: Surrey v Gloucestershire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Middlesex

Other match
11.30, one day
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Lancashire.

HOCKEY

WOMENS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (Cannock HC, Hatherton): Semi-finals and final.

WELSH WOMENS CUP (WIS, Cardiff) Final and plate final.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: England XI v Havant (Bisham).

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World Trophy: Amsterdam Admirals v Scottish Claymores (3.0); London Monarchs v Barcelona Dragons (Tottenham Hotspur FC, 3.0).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser championship: Final: (Wembley Arena, 4.30)

CYCLING: Hillingdon CC 25 miles (Marlow, 7.0), Mildenhall CC 25 miles *(Risby, 8.0)*.

SNOOKER: Embassy world championship (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield)

SPEEDWAY: *World championship*: British Final (Coventry, 3.0).

TENNIS: Men's and women's satellite tournament (Edinburgh)

GOLF 35
MONTGOMERIE AND
WOOSNAM RISE
TO FORE IN PARIS

SPORT

CRICKET 38
ILLINGWORTH READY
TO PUT ATHERTON
OUT OF HIS MISERY

SATURDAY APRIL 29 1995

Schumacher roars back with burst of speed

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN IMOLA

CONTROVERSY and rancour seem to have pursued Michael Schumacher unrelentingly since the death of Ayrton Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix here last year. Yesterday, just to conform to type and end his 12 months of tension with a sense of symmetry, they hunted him down again as he was displaying his precocious talents on the track during a thrilling afternoon of action.

The first qualifying session on the circuit where Senna died was bound to sort out the men from the boys. However, even before he had taken provisonal pole position for the Formula One race tomorrow from the Ferrari of Gerhard Berger, Schumacher had been singled out by Max Mosley, the president of the International Motor Sport Federation, for his "childish" behaviour.

Mosley criticised the German, 26, for causing speculation about his fluctuating weight at the Brazilian Grand Prix last month. He also assailed Schumacher and the rest of the drivers for their part in a public wrangle over super-licences earlier this season. Then he directed his anger at the fuel company, Elf, and lambasted it for not admitting it had made a mistake by submitting irregular fuel for the Benetton and Williams cars in Brazil.

"I think it is unfortunate that the world champion should get involved in a misunderstanding about how much he should weigh," Mosley said. "That shows a lack of an adult attitude. It is not extraordinary to put weight on like that, but it is to lose it so quickly. The attitude towards super-licences shown by all the drivers was just childish."

Schumacher did not know about Mosley's comments when he took part in the afternoon qualifying session, but he could not have reacted with a better performance. The Williams-Renault drivers, Damon Hill and David Coulthard, said they were stunned by the improvement in the German's Benetton-Renault since the Argentine Grand Prix three weeks ago. Having been very much second best to the Williamses then, Schumacher's car appears to be back on the pace.

Schumacher may even have a small advantage over his rivals, whom he leads in the drivers' championship. He responded to challenges from both Hill and Coulthard yesterday before watching as Berger came within 0.008sec of his fastest time. Coulthard was third and Hill fourth.

Nigel Mansell set the ninth fastest time in his new McLaren-Mercedes.

Schumacher admitted in his press conference that he had become so depressed at the height of the controversies surrounding him last year that he had considered abandoning Formula One, but he was unchastened by Mosley's criticism and buoyant over the performance of the car and his enhanced prospects.

"I was not present when Mr Mosley made these comments," Schumacher said, "so I cannot really talk about them without knowing what context they were made in. I have not spoken to him since before the Brazilian Grand Prix, so I have not had a chance to explain to him about how the weight situation came about.

"I have explained it to everyone else — how I drink a lot of water before each weekend, eat more and may have been weighed with my heavier testing helmet — and everybody understands. Maybe I should talk to Mr Mosley about it so he can judge it differently.

"I am more concerned that we have made such a big improvement. We have been ahead of the rest here so far and in the first two races that was not the case. We had a lot of troubles but we completed a long test last week and it has made all the difference. I think we have the capacity to develop our car more than Williams throughout the year, so it is looking good."

The qualifying was the perfect antidote to the air of dread still lingering over Imola after the horrors of last year. Yesterday was happily uneventful, distinguished by a provisional grid in which the first five drivers are separated by less than a second and by the reappearance of the German's familiar domination.

Still, for Schumacher, the memories of the death of Senna and Roland Ratzenberger are still vivid. "I have to say, I would rather we had gone somewhere else than Imola," he said.

FIRST QUALIFYING SESSION

LEADING POSITIONS: 1, M Schumacher (Ger), Benetton, 1min 27.274sec (201.915kph). 2, G Berger (Austria), Ferrari, 1:27.282. 3, D Coulthard (GB), Williams, 1:27.459. 4, D Hill (GB), Williams, 1:27.537. 5, J Alesi (Fr), Ferrari, 1:27.813. 6, M Hakkinen (Fin), McLaren, 1:28.343. 7, E Irvine (GB), Jordan, 1:28.516. 8, J Herbert (GB), Benetton, 1:29.403. 9, N Mansell (GB), McLaren, 1:29.517. 10, R Barrichello (Br), Jordan, 1:29.580. 11, G Morbidelli (It), Footwork, 1:29.582. 12, O Panis (Fr), Ligier, 1:30.801; 13, M Salo (Fin), Tyrrell, 1:31.221; 14, H-H Frentzen (Ger), Sauber, 1:31.358; 15, U Katayama (Japan), Tyrrell, 1:31.630; 16, J Verstappen (Holl), Simtek, 1:32.156; 17, A Suzuki (Japan), Ligier, 1:32.297; 18, P Martini (It), Minardi, 1:32.445; 19, T Inoue (Japan), Footwork, 1:32.988; 20, L Badoer (It), Minardi, 1:33.071; 21, K Wendlinger (Austria), Sauber, 1:33.494; 22, B Gachot (Fr), Pacific, 1:33.892; 23, D Schiattarella (It), Simtek, 1:33.965.

Cantona content to stay at United

BY PETER BALL

AFTER months of criticism, Manchester United have decided that enough is enough. Yesterday, they signed Eric Cantona on a new three-year contract and then went on to the attack.

"It has been a long traumatic period for the club, but we believe that Eric has served his sentences," Martin Edwards, the United chairman, said at a press conference. "He has had four punishments — by the club, the FA, by the court and the French FA. We would now like to see an end to the whole affair."

That may be a forlorn hope. The move has already dismayed Internazionale, who had hoped to sign the player, and seems certain to provoke further United's myriad of critics, who have not been appeased by the swingeing sentences imposed on the player after his assault on a supporter after being sent off at Crystal Palace in January.

"We will be crucified for signing a player who can win us trophies, but I think we were never going to win on this one, no matter what we did," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "We have taken enough stick over the past few months and we are not going to please anyone any more, so what we've done is to please our own fans, the players and everyone associated with the club."

There is no doubt that Ferguson, and United's supporters, are hugely relieved by the turn of events, keeping the player Ferguson described as "the best in England" at Old Trafford once his suspension ends in October. Until this week, Cantona's departure had seemed likely, Italian money and the pressures of his situation pointing the way to a transfer.

The Milan club certainly thought so. "I am disappointed with Cantona's representatives," Paolo Taveggia, Inter's general secretary, said. "They agreed to have him play for Inter next year. I think they were not as fair with us as we were with them."

Inter reportedly had offered Cantona £30,000 a week. His contract at United is unlikely to be more than half that, but his feeling for the club transcended money.

"Manchester United are the biggest club in England, in Europe, maybe in the world," Cantona said. "I did think I might accept Inter's offer at a difficult moment, but it was a very short moment. I hope to spend the rest of my career here. I can forget everything and we can win everything. We are bigger than the people who sometimes have been so hard and so wrong."

Although he said that he knew that some people wanted him to leave, Cantona may be harbouring some illusions about what lies ahead. His reply to a question about his capacity to cope with the inevitable provocation, on and off the pitch — that he would find it "easy" — is worrying, given his record.

Ferguson, in spite of a spirited defence of his team and his own disciplinary record, has fewer illusions. "It is not going to be easy," he said. "I don't think any player in the history of football has received the punishment he has got, but the way he has handled it without complaint has taken courage.

"He has made the hardest decision he could have made — to stay. He has put himself in the firing line by being prepared to say 'I'm not going to let them beat me', but he knows he is going to have to handle it, he knows that if he is sent off again, it will all start up again."

Ferguson hopes that opposing players will be "honest" in their treatment of his Frenchman. He is equally concerned that stewarding and policing should give United, and other teams, more protection than they have sometimes received.

Cantona was sanguine and, as he left, he even essayed a joke. "I must go training, to prepare for my next game," he said, hand shielding his eyes against the sun as he mimed peering over the horizon. United hope that it is truly that bright ahead.

United's faith 39
Money matters 39

Offiah pauses to sign autographs for schoolboys during the Wigan training session at Wembley stadium yesterday. Photograph: Andre Camara

Wigan can mark end of an era

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

FOR 80 minutes, agents can put down their mobile telephones and players forget wage packets measured in telephone numbers. Wigan and Leeds can justify the fuss about a Super League, even though rugby league's showpiece today is now more an auctioneer's showcase.

Amid the bitter Anglo-Australian bidding for players, the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley is also a prelude to the arrival of the big bang — the £77 million European Super League — to which it must also adapt as a mid-season competition.

After the contraction plan and ill-starred amalgamation of clubs into a 14-team league comes the expansion policy of the Rugby Football League (RFL), with 16, or possibly as many as 18 teams, clubs' identities preserved and the prospect of more jam for all. If not already dead, most of the merger proposals for traditional rivals, who balked at the notion, are to be buried at a special meeting tomorrow of the 35 clubs at Huddersfield.

A second new dawn? After taking three weeks to disassemble, the entire Super League structure is to be rebuilt in a more conciliatory fashion, at least in the eyes of clubs on the outside.

Initial haste and the lack of consultation has led the RFL back to the drawing board. Compromise is the watchword in a more meaningful first division for the truncated August-January programme next season. Keighley and Batley, from the second division, look likely to be rewarded with places as the top finishers, joining London and the new Paris side in the Super League next March, and the remainder into the reconstructed British League, starting at the same time.

After the pressure for a re-evaluation, the RFL's next problem is persuading the bigger clubs that a larger Super League is necessarily better. Chris Caisley, the Bradford Northern chairman, has already warned of a breakaway by top clubs if those squabbling over mergers ruin the possibility of a bright, new era of competition.

In their seven-year stranglehold, Wigan have squeezed a good deal of the romance out of the game's oldest competition. Nowadays, only Leeds can live with them, but springtime at Wembley is Wigan's perennial blossoming — except that it is the heady scent of inducements that is prevalent.

Indeed, Shaun Edwards insisted yesterday that he is still toying with a future in Australia, probably as a means to a better contract at Central Park. Servants rarely come as loyal as the Wigan scrum half and captain, but he admitted: "This week has not been ideal. I'm going to try to put everything to the back of my mind and do what I love doing most, though — playing for Wigan at Wembley."

Doug Laughton, the Leeds manager, confirmed the threat in that. "It is simple," he said. "If we don't take care of Edwards, we won't win." Despite the youthful flourish of Holroyd and experienced swordplay of Schofield, the lack of a genuine scrum half is a worry for Leeds.

Twelve months ago, they came within two lightning strikes by Martin Offiah of beating Wigan, but logic, form and history point to an era ending with Wigan's customary party.

LEEDS: A Tait; J Fallon, K Iro, C Innes, F Cummins; G Schofield, G Holroyd; H Howard, J Lowes, E Faimalo, G Mercer, R Eyres, E Hanley (captain). Substitutes: G Mann, N Harmon.

WIGAN: H Paul; J Robinson, V Tuigamala, G Connolly, M Offiah; F Botica, S Edwards (captain); K Skerrett, M Hall, N Cowie, D Betts, M Cassidy, P Clarke. Substitutes: P Atcheson, A Farrell.

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Cricketing schools urged to take fresh guard

Andrew Longmore views soul-searching at Lord's as teachers debate the need to enliven a fading art

They were all there — W. G. Grace, Sir Donald Bradman, Sir Len Hutton — watching from the walls of the Long Room as the waves of another Ashes defeat lapped gently against the rock of the English game. This week, it was the turn of the public schools to examine their consciences: the fact that more than 200 cricket masters and coaches, the majority from independent schools, took up MCC's invitation to do so suggested that apathy, at least, is not a problem.

The issue under discussion did not concern technique or facilities, but attitude. According to Tim Woods, the cricket master at Trent College, whose original letter to MCC sparked the debate, cricket is losing ground to other sports because it has failed to provide enough of a "buzz" for children who are spoilt for choice.

"It is no longer deemed the national summer game in the eyes of many children," he said. "It is becoming a minority sport." This year, he added, only five out of the intake of 45 pupils had played cricket before.

Woods's point was that the negative tactics of some schools in batting slowly, declaring late and not chasing runs were turning many timed games into boring draws and giving the game a bad image. He advocated school matches of 110 overs, in which the side batting first had a maximum of 60 overs to set a target.

"That would concentrate the minds of the side batting first and reduce the chances of pointless drawn games," he said.

The Long Room echoed to the sound of soul-searching. Had that declaration last week been a bit delayed? We had been nought for two and they had put us in and, besides, three years ago they batted on after tea . . .

Many agreed with Woods, but not with a solution which included more limited overs cricket. Peter Philpott, the former Australia Test leg spinner, now cricket master at Rossall, strongly condemned the idea. "There is no more negative cricket in the world than the modern limited-overs game," he said. "The best way to prepare children for the future is to play proper cricket and play it the right way. We have to set out to win, not wait until we can't lose before we try to win because part of winning is the possibility of losing."

An Australian in the Long Room talking passionately and lucidly to the successors of Thomas Arnold about preserving the spirit of the game? I swear that the picture of Douglas Jardine turned pale.

Against the trend, the western area of the Headmasters' Conference (HMC) schools have organised a seven-school limited overs league for the summer, a move welcomed by David Walsh, the chairman of HMC schools cricket.

"What is important is the way we teach cricket, not whether it is limited overs or proper cricket; that is a red herring," he said. "We should be stimulating a love of the game for its own sake." Proper cricket, he said, taught the subtleties of the game, fair declarations, thoughtful captaincy, the art of attacking spin bowling. Limited overs was important because "every ball counts".

Not everything, though, was doom and gloom. While Dave Edmundson, from Queen Elizabeth GS, Blackburn, called for more imagination in attracting boys (and girls) to cricket — a winter indoor league, for example — many others reported unprecedented enthusiasm for the game in their schools.

Representatives of state schools asked MCC and the public schools for more help in promoting cricket in their sector, and a man who admitted to hating cricket after a youth spent fielding, ended the evening with a passionate call for cricket masters not to presume that their pupils will love the game. "Go away and teach your love of the game to others," he said.

Leading article, page 17

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

Dancer smitten by love at first sight

Page 10

CAR 95

SATURDAY APRIL 29 1995

Win a super touring holiday around Europe

Page 7

THE TIMES Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1995

HERE COMES SUMMER — AND YOU CAN ENJOY IT IN ONE OF FOUR CARS WE ARE GIVING AWAY AS PRIZES, WHILE FOLLOWING OUR WEEKLY TOURING GUIDES

Win the new £16,000 MGF

The MGF is the model everybody is talking about and today *CAR 95* offers readers a chance to win this sensational mid-engined sports car, which has brought new life back to one of the most resounding names in British motoring history.

It is the car calculated to revive that reputation for affordable, fun, wind-in-the-hair motoring which gave the *MG marque a magic ring* from its inception 70 years ago until the much-loved MGB ceased production in 1980. The new model has been designed to pay due respect to that heritage, but it relies upon the very latest technology. It has already been acclaimed as Britain's contender to break the *Japanese stranglehold* on the market for small sports cars.

Since it was first shown at the Geneva Motor Show last month, more than 500 orders have been placed for the new MG, which will go on sale later this summer at a price of just £16,000 for the basic version.

If you wanted to buy one, you would have to join that queue. However, *The Times*, in association with the Rover Group, which took the decision to revive the MG marque, offers you the opportunity to win one of the first off the production line. *Details of the* prize draw appear on page 3.

The standard model will have a four-cylinder, 16-valve, 1.8-litre engine, giving the car a top speed of 120mph and 0-60mph acceleration in 8.5 seconds. Fuel consumption will be within a whisker of 40mpg. Later in the year, a high-peformance model *featuring* a unique variable valve control (VVC) system will be launched, increasing engine efficiency to give a top speed of 130mph and a 0-60mph time of just 7 seconds, with only a marginal loss of fuel economy. The VVC model, which will cost about £18,500, features anti-lock brakes and a unique speed-sensitive, power-assisted steering system as *standard. Both* are options on the basic model.

The MG will be available through 125 dealers in the United Kingdom, selected by Rover on the basis of an investment in specialist sales and service personnel. They *will provide a comprehensive support* service and dedicated attention to MG customers.

The MG's reputation was built not only on speed and fun but on affordability, and the new car has been designed to keep routine servicing costs to a minimum. Its distinctive body design incorporates *the famous* octagonal badge in the front grille, but the modern upswept line *also gives the driver* and passenger maximum protection in the cockpit.

Over the next four weeks, *The Times* will print every day a token for our MG draw. You need six for each entry. The first token, together with *some simple* questions, appears on page 3.

The MGF is the first of four magnificent Rover Group cars that will be offered as prizes through *CAR 95* during the summer. The others will be:

● The superb Rover Cabriolet, a car designed to bring style and refinement to open-air motoring, with comfortable seating for four and the smooth, quiet performance for which the company's saloons have become renowned

● The exciting Coupe, with its sporty looks and turbo-charged performance allied to beautifully-finished interior elegance.

● *The 400 Tourer, with its refined* diesel engine, is an estate with *grand tourer* qualities and accommodation for all the family

A legend reborn

'The inspiration for much of the MGF came as long as ten years ago. It's a tough little bugger' —

Gerry McGovern on the MGF's evolution, page 3

Throughout the summer, *CAR 95*, in association with NPI, the pensions specialist, and the AA, will also be bringing *readers each week a guide to some* of the most beautiful parts of the *country featured in* our Treasures of Britain promotion. The first easy-to-follow route map drawn from the AA Tour Guide Britain appears on page 3.

Contest coupon, page 3

They're brash, big, beautiful – and over here

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Commuting in a big way: Alex Gunn with his 1980 Lincoln Continental, bought in America for £1,500

Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor, on a celebration tomorrow of America's glitzy giants of the road

They were ten feet high, all fins and *whitewall* tyres, and always driven in sunshine.

When we wiped the fantasy from our eyes to emerge from the Odeon into a dingy British street, the Ford Anglias, Austins and Morrises *looked* barely bigger than Matchbox models compared with the gleaming American monsters we had just gawped at on the big screen.

The British have had a long love-hate relationship with American cars. Sometimes they seemed the most glamorous machines on earth, half a world away from the practicalities of life here.

Dreamers can drool tomorrow at the Heritage Motor Centre's All-American Spectacular. The museum, at Gaydon, Warwickshire, will have 400 big-finned, super-chromed monsters on show, cars that represent a stark contrast from workaday Mondeos and Cavaliers.

Alexander Gunn won't worry *because he has* already bought the dream — a 1980 5.8-litre V8 Lincoln *Continental, not for weekend* cruising but commuting, from his home in Leicestershire to London.

"I can easily get 20 miles to the gallon in town and up to 30mpg on a motorway run, which is no worse than most big cars produced in Europe," says Gunn, a representative of the American Auto Club. "People have so many preconceived ideas about American cars — that they are *huge*, *ugly* gas-guzzlers — that they never think about just how far advanced American cars have been over the past 30 years."

American cars were, for instance, using unleaded petrol back in 1974, *and were fitted with catalytic* converters, to soak up toxic engine *gases, when Europe took that step* only within the past three years. Airbags, now the safety fashion here, were introduced in the USA years ago.

"The engines are big," adds Gunn, "but they are unstressed and can easily run for 200,000 miles. But critics just keep on knocking *American cars for being too glitzy* compared with European models."

There is the *rub, for, no matter* how hard we try to accept the word of men like Gunn, American cars, to conservative European eyes, always seem so ... well, big.

Putting a British-made runabout up against an American version designed to pop to the shops is like putting Ronnie Corbett into an American football team.

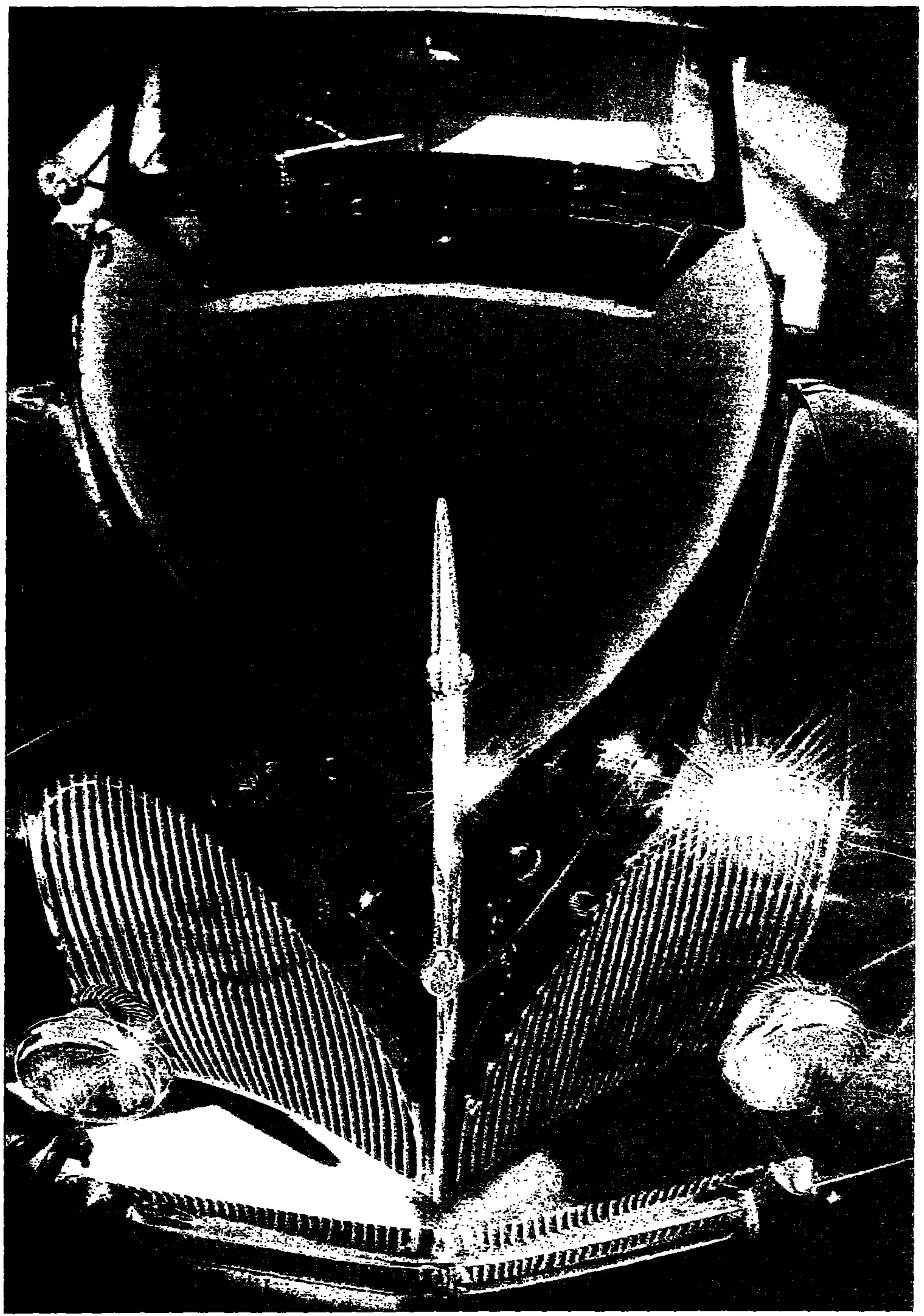
Cars in the US only grew in size *because of the influence of the* opulent Panhards and Mercedes imported from Europe by wealthy East-coasters in the early 1900s, according to Nick Georgano's book, *Art of the American Automobile.*

By the 1950s and the pinnacle of American confidence came the *definitive look: the big fins*, the chrome and bonnets the length of a football pitch. The cars were also, as Alexander Gunn points out, extremely well kitted out, unlike their European counterparts. Cadillacs, Lincolns and Fords had radios, power steering, electric windows and adjustable steering *columns decades* before family cars on sale here.

Gunn's Lincoln — bought second-hand for £1,500 in the USA, with an extra £1,000 to pay in shipping and tax — also has a four-speed automatic gearbox, six-way powered bench seats in the front, air-conditioning, cruise control, central locking, automatic boot release, and a factory-fitted Citizens' Band two-way radio.

"That list of extras would cost a *fortune on a European-built car,*" he says. "It is easy to laugh at American cars, *but they have a lot* to offer and over the years, they could teach us a lot about style and engineering."

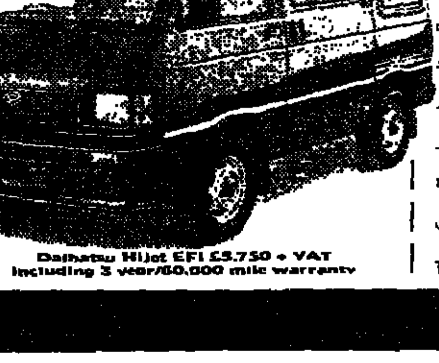
Nick Georgano's book, Art of the American Automobile, *with photographs by Nicky Wright, is on sale now, published by Prion (£27.50).*



Modern art? Cars like this 1940 Lincoln Continental, from the book, *Art of the American Automobile*, will be on show tomorrow

The best. For less.

With its class-beating payload, cargo capacity and turning circle it won't surprise you that the Hijet was voted 'Best Micro Van', by 'What Van?' for the 2nd year running. But what will surprise you is that it now not only has a fuel-injected engine, for more power and even better fuel economy, but is actually down in price.



Daihatsu Hijet EFI £5,750 + VAT including 3 year/60,000 mile warranty

For more information on the [illegible] Daihatsu Information Services, FREEPOST [illegible] CT13 9BR. Or Freephone 0800 521 [illegible]

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NO-NONSENSE VEHICLES FROM JAPAN.

PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. EXCLUDES VAT, [illegible]

Candid camera to curb speedsters on M25

Tony Dawe on new moves to cut accidents

THE latest "Big Brother" scheme to keep an eye on motorists was switched on this week as trials began around the M25 of an automated system which will set different speed limits according to the amount of traffic on the motorway.

Drivers will face fixed penalty fines and three penalty points on their licences if caught exceeding the speed limits by cameras linked to the system.

The Motorway Incident Detection and Automatic Signalling (Midas) system relies on sensors in the road to monitor the density and speed of traffic. Information is fed to computers which will decide automatically what speed limits to impose to prevent traffic bunching or "stop-start" driving, which is common on busy stretches of motorway and regularly causes accidents.

The accuracy of the detection equipment has already been tested earlier this year at the Fire Service College in Gloucestershire. Trials are taking place on the busiest stretch of the M25, between Chertsey and the M4, which regularly carries 200,000 vehicles a day.

The system is expected to become fully operational next month and the police cameras will swing into action in June. If it proves effective, the system is certain to be introduced on other busy motorways throughout Britain from next year.

It has been developed by the Highways Agency, the body set up by the Government to maintain motorways and trunk roads.

An agency spokeswoman explained: "Any slight change in conditions on busy stretches of motorway has a tremendous impact and can cause what is known as 'flow breakdown'. Vehicles moving suddenly from one lane to another can cause cars behind to slow down and those further down the road to stop. Minor accidents and the failure of traffic to use the slow lane can cause the same effect.

"The new system will anticipate where traffic will build up and, by slowing it down before that point, will improve the overall flow. It should also prevent accidents and reduce pollution."

Initially, the limits will drop from 70mph to 60 and then 50, and signs will warn motorists that variable speed limits are in operation.

They will be enforced by the Metropolitan and Surrey police forces, which are cooperating with the M25 experiment. Chief Inspector Joe Riches, of Scotland Yard's traffic branch, said: "Motorists who don't take notice of the limits will be photographed and, once they have been traced, will be notified that they have received a £40 fixed penalty fine and three penalty points on their licences.

"We will not be pursuing people who exceed the limit by 2 or 3mph. However, we will be tough enough to ensure motorists comply with the new limits because they will undoubtedly increase traffic flow and cut accidents."

Introducing my friend Steven, 'area sales manager' for a Japanese software firm. His area is called Britain

Keeping bad company in the fast lane

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

I am mortified to discover I do not qualify for *The Times*/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year competition but — even without me — the contest will do much to improve the image of company car drivers, most of them wrongly perceived as uncaring road hogs. I hope a few tips for those who do enter will assist their progress.

The best way to approach this is by way of my friend Steven, who is "area sales manager" for a Japanese software company. His area is called Britain.

Inside Steven's head is a motorway map, constantly being updated, complete with contraflows, bottlenecks, closed junctions and off-motorway cafes that will give you an undated receipt. But Steven will not be entering, for he represents the exact opposite of the qualities required from those who do.

For a start, he has a posture problem. In his 1.8 Mondeo he occupies a position as if trying to *crash test the door from the inside.* His right shoulder blade is against the door pillar, his right foot lies flat on the floor pan so that the toes reach diagonally across the throttle.

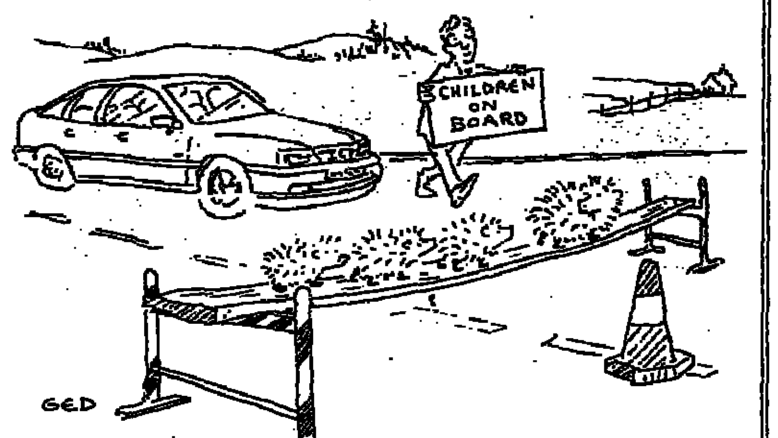
The left foot bends sharply inwards, like a footballer taking an outswinging free kick, in order to rest on the clutch pedal, the faster to wear out the clutch (Steven has never thought much of Ford clutches). The left leg position has the further advantage of enabling him to lift his left foot to use it to operate the eject button on his cassette player when he wants to switch from Phil Collins to a radio traffic report.

Most of the ash from Steven's Panetellas falls on the passenger seat, along the top of which his left arm sometimes rests. What with the driver position, the smoke and the double-breasted suit jacket from Man at C&A hanging directly behind him, Steven's offside blind spot is measured in feet rather than inches. But at his speed, looking behind is a disposable luxury. A radar detector — "great investment in my job" — covers the only possible external threat.

Physiologists reading this will be interested to know that Steven's left hand has developed ligaments different from other people's. He only uses the thumb joint to steer the car, the rest of the left hand fingers being wrapped around the headlamp flasher. This is to deal with what he calls "hedgehogs" travelling at speeds as low as 75mph in the outside lane of motorways.

So Steven gets through a lot of miles, making pertinent the question: how many miles can a 1.8 Mondeo do without an oil check? It had better be 12,000, the service interval, because Steven looks with pity *upon the poor sods with their* heads stuck under the bonnet at service areas: keeping a dog and barking yourself, is what he calls it.

Not that Steven lacks mechanical knowledge. Or at least, mechanical jargon. "Flat spot" is his favourite. "Bloody thing's flat spotting at 60," he tells the mechanics. The mechanics write this down, but do nothing.



"Much better," Steven tells them later.

Steven does not wish to be Company Car Driver of the Year because the publicity would reveal he does not have the 2-litre Ghia. He will, however, react in a predictable way when the winner is announced.

"I know him!" he will say, "I caught him checking the tyre pressures at Watford Gap. What a berk."

IN SEARCH of a Renault clock, I drop by a car scrapyard, one of the sadder places on the motoring landscape. The yard has just bought a Fiat X-19, the little sports job that *enlivened 1980s summers,* for £25.

A couple standing near by walk around the Fiat and offer to buy it. The scrap dealer says: "£75". They haggle. The female half of the partnership hands over some money and drives the Fiat away.

A few minutes later her male partner realises that, having just scrapped a car, he has no means of transport. Time was when a sports car was supposed to attract women, not leave men stranded.

Eric Dymock on research which defies claims that high-sided four-wheel-drives are more unstable than saloons

Tough tests banish fears of 4x4s that roll easily

> 'Some off-road vehicles will tilt more than many ordinary saloon cars'

A series of tests has allayed fears that big four-wheel-drive vehicles are prone to rolling over, crushing their passengers.

A spate of accidents in the past year sparked concern over the safety and stability of such vehicles. Suzuki is thought to have paid £1 million in an out-of-court settlement to Tracy Bishop, 27, who was crippled for life when one of the Japanese company's 4x4s rolled over on a bend when she was 19.

The Suzuki SJ vehicles have *been the subject of criticism for* seven years, with the Consumers' Association claiming they *have been involved in about* 40 serious roll-over accidents. A writ lodged by Ms Bishop claimed the SJ410 she was driving near her home at Thame, Oxfordshire, could roll over at speeds as low as 20mph. Fears over the safety of 4x4s intensified when Joanna Wace and her two children were killed after her Range Rover rolled over the central barrier of the A303 near Andover in Hampshire. The accident seemed to reinforce claims that such high-sided vehicles were unstable.

However, the findings of the authoritative National Highways and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in America show there is only a *small difference in when a 4x4* and an ordinary saloon will topple.

Four-wheel-drives will also lean further than a London double-decker bus, which has to pass a stringent legal requirement that it tilt to 28 degrees, and single-deckers to 35 degrees. Buses carry most of their weight near the ground, and their top decks are made as light as possible to ensure their stability. London Transport staff have filled the top deck of a Routemaster to demonstrate that, even with nobody on the lower deck, it could still tilt to about 40 degrees without falling over.

Vehicles such as the Range Rover are much the same, with a heavy chassis and often large beam axles and transmissions adding to bottom weight. Although they are *taller than saloons,* their centre of gravity is not much higher.

The NHTSA tilt table shows a Range Rover will tip to 44.6 degrees while a BMW 320 will go little further at 49.2 degrees. A Jeep Cherokee achieves 47 degrees, while a US-built Ford Escort tips at 47.7 degrees.

Tilt angles for the Vauxhall Frontera vary: the petrol estate is 41 degrees, the diesel 42 degrees, the Sport petrol 45 degrees and diesel 40 degrees. The Nissan Patrol will go to 45 degrees and the Mercedes-Benz G-class to 54, better than many saloon cars.

Those tests, though, are all static, and conditions change when vehicles are moving, sometimes in poor weather and on hazardous surfaces. However, 4x4s again stood up *to the rigorous testing of the* American experts with their heavier bodies, stout tyres and *strong axles seemingly robust* even in a calamitous skid.

The NHTSA carries out what it calls a "critical sliding velocity test", which assumes a vehicle skidding sideways on a virtually frictionless surface such as ice and hitting a raised kerb. A BMW 320 could turn *over if it hit the kerb at just* under 10mph but a Land Rover Defender could be *doing up to 11mph before it* toppled. A Range Rover manages 10.2mph and a Jeep Wrangler [illegible], about the same as the low-slung BMW. Multi-purpose vehicles, increasingly popular in Europe, also fare relatively well, with the Toyota Previa capable of *hitting* a kerb at 10.1mph without mishap.

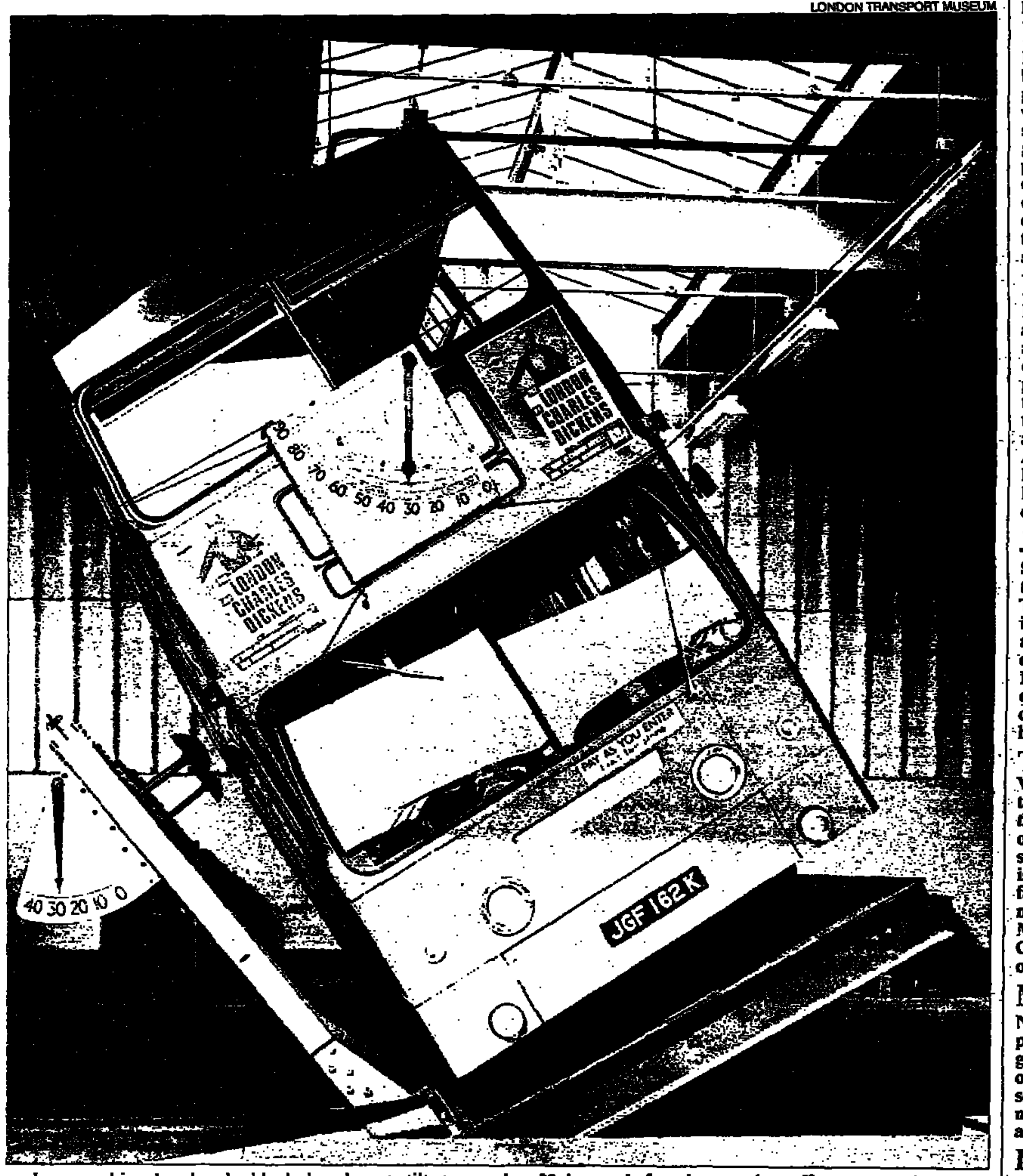
There is no doubt that off-roaders, *with their big wheels* and heavy tyres, handle differently from ordinary saloons or sports cars, but that is as much a consequence of their size and weight as their height.

The NHTSA tests will help allay the fears of hundreds of 4x4 drivers increasingly *alarmed by* reports that their vehicles were inherently unstable, many stemming from *accusations going back to 1988* by the American Consumers' Union that some leisure 4x4s could topple easily.

The Department of Transport here was persuaded to carry out its own tests on 16 vehicles and one did topple on to its side, although the DoT report said: "None of the vehicles exhibited handling characteristics which could automatically be regarded as unsafe.

"Drivers should realise that multi-purpose vehicles cannot be expected to handle as well as modern passenger cars."

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM



Lean machine: London double-deckers have to tilt at more than 28 degrees before they topple: staff say even 40 is safe

NEWS IN BRIEF

Watchdog advises on which car to purchase

Independent advice on which car to buy comes from telephone services launched this week by *Which?*, the magazine for the Consumers' Association. There are two lines: *Which? Car Live*, which offers a database on new cars (0839-838383), and *Which? Car Verdicts* (0891-669990), which gives the magazine's best buys. Calls between 9am and 7pm on weekdays cost 39p a minute off-peak and 49p peak rate.

Wacky day out

Wacky racers turn out at the Cars and Car Conversions Action Day at the Castle Combe circuit, near Chippenham, Wiltshire, today. The event promises cars which are legal to drive but barely recognisable as such, with replicas, component cars and dragsters all on view. The day starts at 9am and costs £5 for adults, £3 for children and pensioners.

Rover payout

Rover's workforce is full of bright ideas. The company paid £1.1 million last year to workers with money-saving suggestions to make the group more efficient. The pay-outs included 63 awards of £5,000, 15 cars and 17 video cameras. Eight in ten workers took part and Rover says the scheme helped to make savings of £8.5 million.

Ford offer

Ford is offering free insurance on its bestselling Fiesta and Escort cars until the end of May. The one-year comprehensive policy, organised through the RAC, is available to all drivers aged between 18 and 80, although the Fiesta Azura and RS1800 and the high-performance Escort RS2000, RS Cosworth and cabriolet are excluded.

Jaguar jump

Sales of Jaguar cars are at their highest for five years. The company sold 9,400 cars in more than 60 markets around the world in the first quarter of this year, with North America up 24 per cent, Europe ahead by 55 per cent and sales in Britain up by 21 per cent.

Title holder

Vauxhall's Cavalier has retained its title as Fleet Car of the Year from the Association of Fleet Car Operators, in spite of the fact that the model is soon to be replaced and has faced competition from newer rivals, such as the Ford Mondeo. In ten years, the Cavalier has lost the title only once, to Ford's Sierra.

Micra option

Nissan's Micra, 1993 European Car of the Year, now gets airbags but as a £300 option. The company has sold 44,000 of its supermini — made at Washington, Tyne and Wear — in Britain.

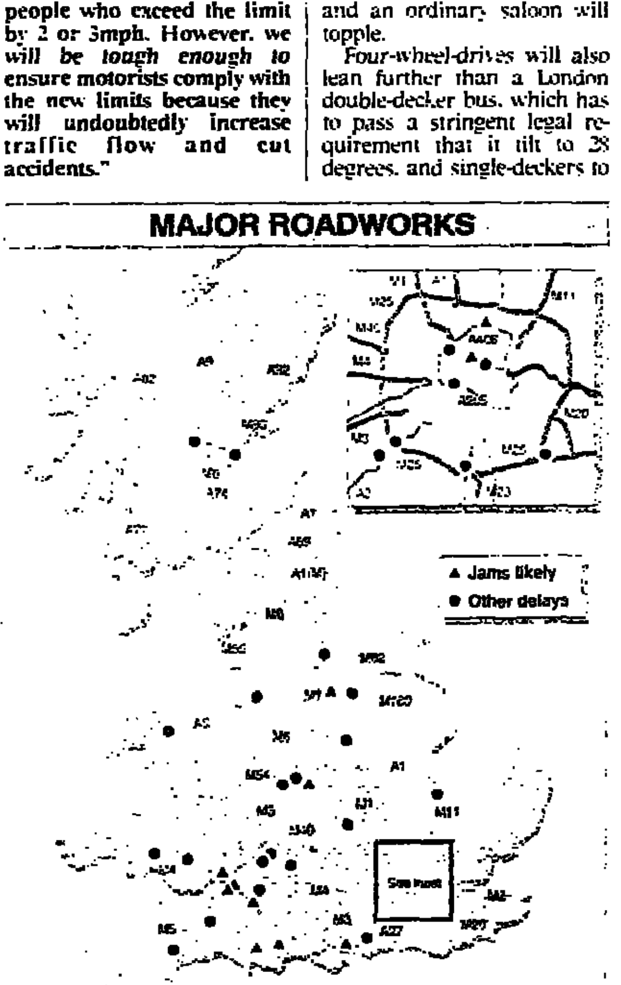
Daewoo's deal

Daewoo, the South Korean newcomer to Britain, has signed a £25 million deal to supply Avis, the rental company, with 2,000 cars over the next year.

RAC launch

The RAC has launched an accident management service. Members phone a hotline so the RAC can pick up the vehicle, arrange repairs and monitor the cost.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



THE AA'S GUIDE TO BRITAIN'S WORST TRAFFIC BLACKSPOTS

● **LONDON**

VE Day events between May 6 and 8, centre around Oxford Park and Hyde Park. There will be various road closures and strict parking restrictions.

A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton: road width reduced on the Lea Valley Viaduct until the end of 1995.

A219 Putney Bridge: reduced to one lane each way for repairs until June.

A4088 Dollis Hill: temporary lights on Dudden Hill Lane at junction of Burnley Rd for bridge repairs.

● **SOUTH EAST**

M25 Surrey J7-8 (M23/Reigate): roadworks cause regular delays and affect traffic joining from M23 northbound.

M25 Surrey J10-11 (A3/Chertsey): major widening work with lane closures either way.

A3 Guildford: major roadworks between Stoke Interchange and Compton. Long delays expected.

A27 *Chichester Bypass, Sussex, contraflow between* Stockbridge and Bognor Rd roundabouts, with lane closures also at Westhampnett.

M275 *Hampshire: between Portsmouth and M27, lane* closures also affecting the M27.

M26 Kent: contraflow for work between J1-J2 (M25).

● **SOUTH WEST**

Exeter: the Great West Run takes place around the city centre tomorrow and many roads will be closed between *9am and 3pm.*

M5 Avon J17-19 (Bristol West-Portbury): lane closures each way as part of the New Severn Crossing works.

M5 *Glos J11-12 (Cheltenham-Gloucester): contraflow in* place until September.

M5 Avon J16-J17 (Almondsbury/Bristol West): major raodworks and contraflow.

A417 Glos: contraflow on Barnwood Bypass, between Gloucester Trading Estate and C&G roundabouts.

A350 Chippenham, Wilts: temporary lights 24 hours a day for cabling work.

A3102 Swindon: contraflow on Wootton Bassett Rd, east of Whitehill Way.

A36 Somerset: major roadworks near Norton Saint Philip, at the A366 junction until May.

A358 Taunton: roundabout construction on the Bishops Lydeard Rd at Penn Elm Hill.

A31 Dorset: major roadworks on the Ashley Heath roundabouts.

A35 Dorset: temporary lights for roadworks, between Puddletown and Tolpuddle until May.

A3074 Cornwall: roadworks between Carbis Bay and St Ives, lots of temporary lights so peak-time delays inevitable. (Will affect traffic heading to A30).

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**

M6 *J6 (Birmingham area) and south of Spaghetti Junction,* West Midlands: major roadworks and 50mph speed limit with restrictions on slip roads.

A43 *Silverstone: resurfacing work with temporary lights* daily, regularly causes long delays each way.

A4123 near Dudley, West Midlands: one lane closed each way on *Birmingham New Rd, between Burnt Tree Island* and the Tipton Rd junction until June.

A45 Stonebridge: flyover construction at A452 junction and widening *between M42 J6 and Stonebridge Island* — 40mph limit and lane closures until June.

● **NORTH**

M6 Cheshire J20-21A (Lymm-Croft): major roadworks continue *near the Thelwall Viaduct until May.*

A633 Rotherham: gas repairs on Barnsley Rd at Wath, near to Church St. Temporary lights, long delays likely especially at *peak-times.*

A653 Leeds: roadworks on Dewsbury Rd in connection with the new M621/M1 Link Road.

● ***WALES***

A467 Newport: contraflow on Forge Lane while improvement work is underway on the A48 at Tredegar *Park* roundabout.

A5 Maerdy, Clwyd: improvements continue at the Glyn bends. Various restrictions including *temporary lights at* times and short-term closures until end July.

A465 West Glamorgan, between Llandarcy and Aberdulais: contraflow along the Saltings Viaduct *for resurfacing. Add* an 30 minutes on journey at peak-times.

A4223 Pontypridd: one-way system on Gelliwastad Rd because of widening work *until the end of June.*

● **SCOTLAND**

Edinburgh: width restrictions on High St between the North and *South* bridges until end of June.

M90 J10 Friarton Bridge Tayside: overnight contraflow together with northbound lane closures.

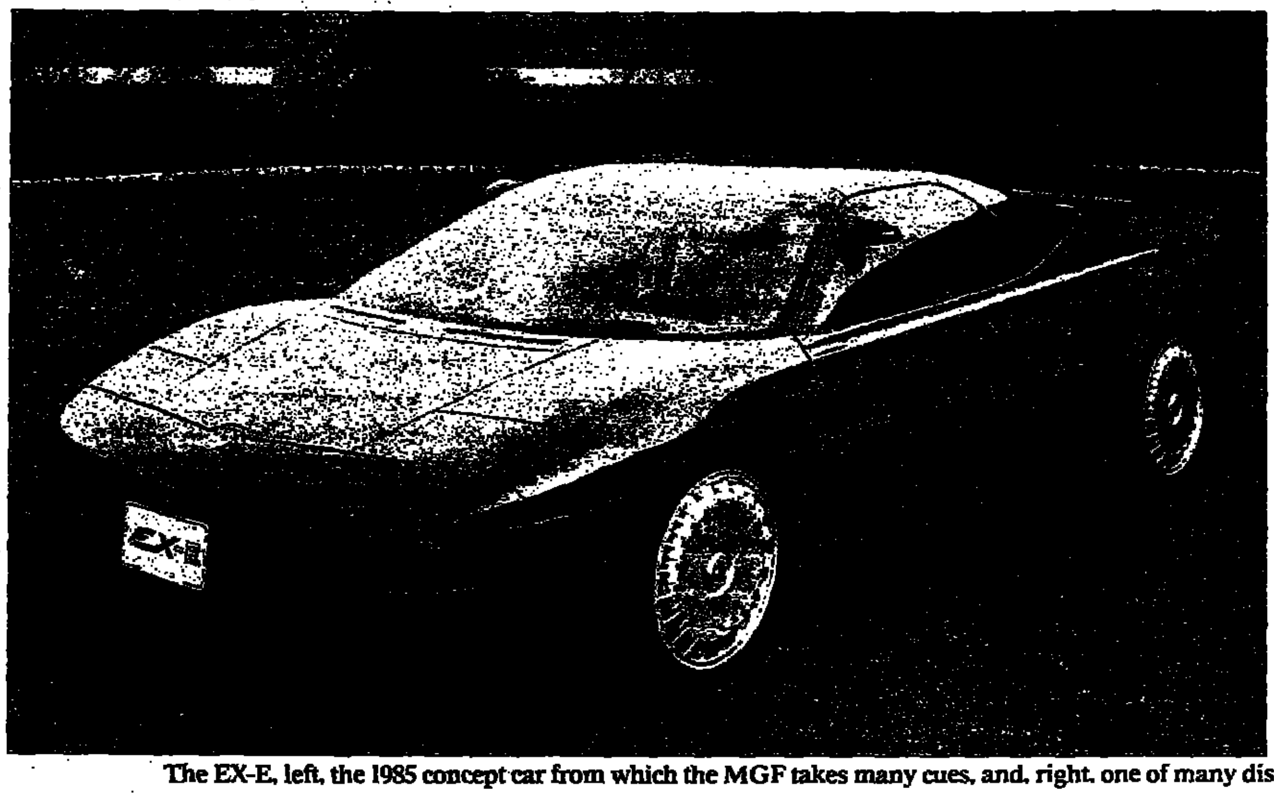
● ***NORTHERN IRELAND***

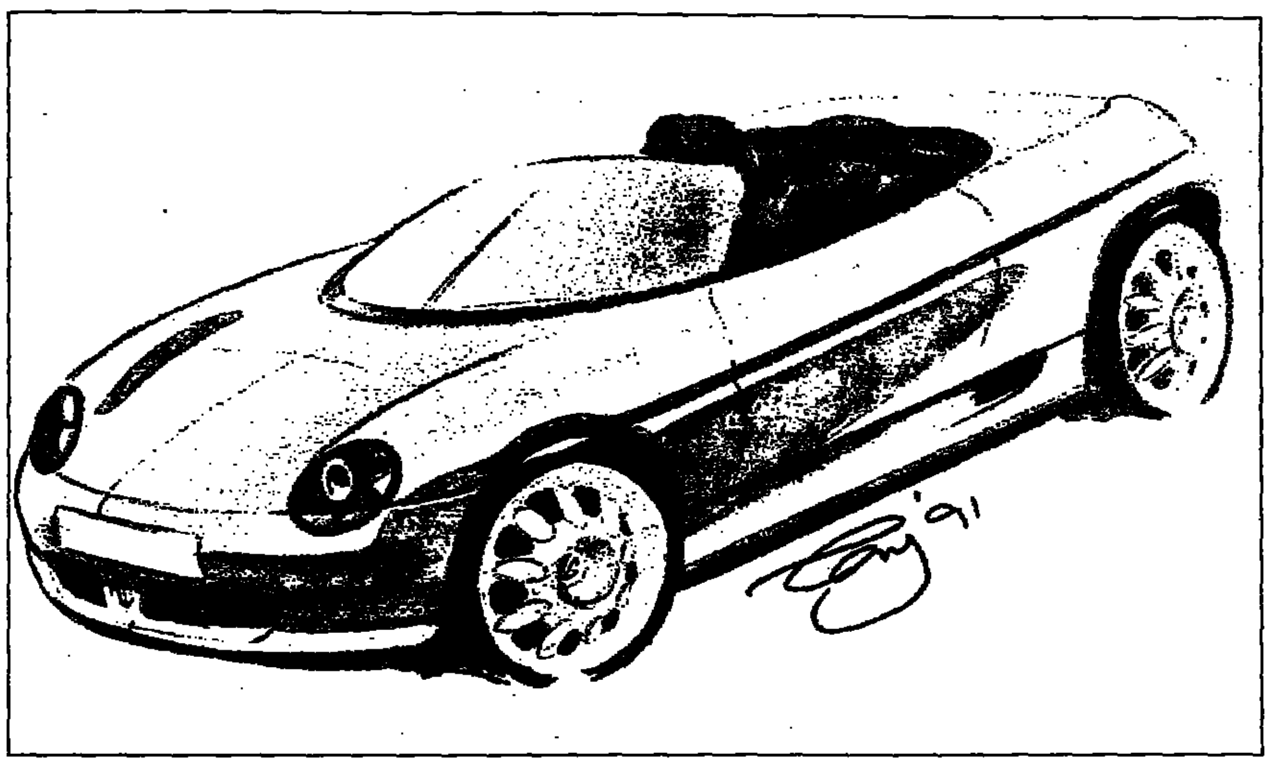
A26 Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Greenhill Rd at junction with Ballymoney Bypass until *September.*

M22 Co Antrim: southbound diversions for resurfacing work between Ballygroobey and Dunsilly.

Alan Copps tells the inside story of the decade of developments that culminated in the new MGF

How a sporting legend was reborn





The EX-E, left, the 1985 concept car from which the MGF takes many cues, and, right, one of many discarded sketches from 1991. It was felt that the bodyline illustrated in this one lacked sufficient emphasis

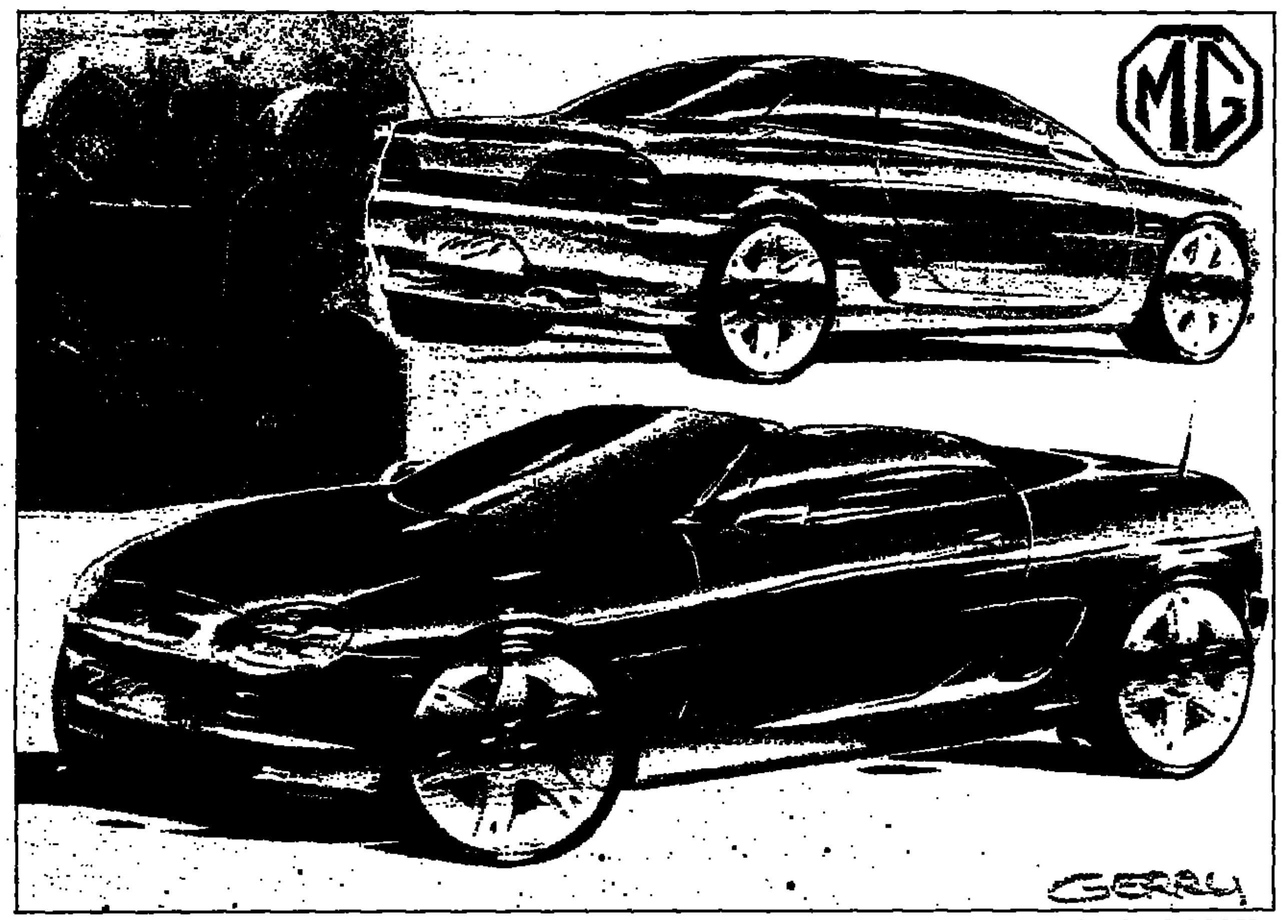
Breathing new life into the MG marque is one of the toughest challenges yet faced by the revitalised Rover Group. Few names in motoring carry such a burden of history and nostalgia. MG enthusiasts are legion and they had determinedly kept the flame alive through the dark age of the British motor industry.

So just who would dare to create a new car worthy of the famous octagonal badge? A practical, modern, mid-engined, rear-wheel-drive, aerodynamic, alloy-wheeled successor to an historic line of front-engined, open-to-the-elements, wire-wheeled and chrome-trimmed cars, cherished as much for their fun as their performance.

Chief designer Gerry McGovern says much of the inspiration for the new car came as long as ten years ago when, at the Frankfurt Motor Show, Rover's design team came up with a concept vehicle intended to demonstrate that the company had regained the ability to apply new technology to a sports car.

The EX-E was a potential supercar, acclaimed but never made. Its shell, now on display at the Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon, Warwickshire, looks every bit as modern as the current breed of supercars. But in the corporate strategy of a company struggling to survive, such design exercises had to give way to the nitty-gritty of perfecting mainstream models and re-establishing a reputation for reliability.

So it was not until four years ago that McGovern and Gordon Sked, now the group's head of design, turned their attention to PR3, the code name for the new MG. "It wasn't so much pressure from outside enthusiasts as a recognition inside the company that the MG badge was a great asset just not being used," says McGovern.



The 1991 theme sketch from which development of the new MGF ultimately proceeded. Inset is the classic MGJ2

McGovern, 38, who first studied at what is now the University of Coventry and then moved on to the Royal College of Art, which has produced a whole band of British car designers, says the first decision — the layout of the power train — was easy. There were three choices: front-engine, front-wheel-drive, like most modern saloons; front-engine, rear-wheel-drive, the traditional sports car format; and mid-engine, rear-wheel-drive, favoured more recently for sporting models.

The car had to have an exciting feel to justify its sports tag and the mid-engine layout would offer both that and the degree of traction under acceleration that was essential to ensure easy handling. "The decision was simple because dynamically that was the ideal choice," says McGovern.

However, he added: "Having said that, the decision made the design task more difficult. It would have been easier to design a front-engined car, because that's what all MGs had been. The mid-engine makes the handling characteristics much better but the looks more difficult.

"This was the first new MG design for 32 years and there was a lot of expectation. It had to have elements of fun but also credibility. You can't relaunch a marque with a lightweight fun car or with something that is too retro-looking. It also had to be durable to re-establish the marque. So it couldn't be too radical, because radical cars date quickly."

What the mid-engine layout dictated was a strong upswept line which not only gives a dynamic, forward-leaning appearance but allows a low bonnet and a waistline that rises to the driver's shoulder height at the cabin, thus giving a feeling of security.

Once the general line was approved, an MG day was held to find out what impression of the marque remained in the public consciousness. "When we asked people to think about MG, most thought about the MGB. So then we concentrated on the front. It had to express that identity but without being backward-looking. We had to set the badge in a modern context," says McGovern.

When it came to the interior, the priority was a feeling of safety. The two seats are cocooned deep in the bodywork with a high transmission tunnel dividing the cockpit.

The car's rising waistline also allows a high back, with a boot able to take two sets of golf clubs."The rear-end gives it a really business-like appearance. It's a tough little bugger," says McGovern.

THE TIMES

Your chance to win the new £16,000 MGF

Since it was first shown at the Geneva Motor Show last month, more than 500 orders have been placed for the MGF. *The Times*, in association with Rover Group, is offering readers a chance to beat the queue by winning one of the first cars off the production line.

Every day for the next four weeks, *The Times* will print a token for the MGF draw. The first appears below. You will need six tokens to enter. You may enter as many times as you wish, but all entries must be on the official application form, and be accompanied by six tokens.

The competition closes on May 27. The winner will be drawn at random from all entries received by that date.

No purchase is necessary. Six tokens and an application form may be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to Times Newspapers, Promotions Department, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XY.

The competition is open to all residents of the UK and the Republic of Ireland except employees of News International, Rover Group and their agents.

The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. *The Times* accepts no responsibility for applications lost, damaged, or delayed in the post.

The MGF will be available for delivery in September 1995. The winner may be given publicity.

OFFICIAL APPLICATION FORM

I enclose six tokens from the *The Times* and wish to enter the draw.

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

....

POSTCODE .... DAY PHONE ....

CAR CURRENTLY DRIVEN ....

DATE PURCHASED ....

PRIVATE OR COMPANY? ....

WHEN WILL YOU REPLACE IT? *(delete as appropriate)*

1-2 months/3-6 months/7-12 months/1-2 years/2 years+

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further mailings from *The Times* or Rover Group ☐

THE TIMES

Win an MGF

TOKEN ONE

A trip back in time through the marches

Alan Copps introduces the first of our weekly touring guides

Some of the best castles in the land are to be found along the marches which divide England and Wales and which were fought over for centuries between the Normans and the Welsh. But oddly and appropriately for a series which starts in *CAR 95*, you could commence this tour from a motoring monument.

Near Agincourt Square in Monmouth, which is dominated by the 18th-century Shire Hall, stands an impressive statue of C.S. Rolls, the youngest son of Lord Llangattock and founder of Rolls-Royce, whose family lived near here.

Monmouth was a Roman settlement and also the site of a Norman castle. In 1673, the Duke of Beaufort built Great Castle House on its site.

Near much of this first part of our route runs a much earlier line of Anglo-Welsh conflict, Offa's Dyke, believed to date from the 8th century when King Offa of Mercia is said to have ordered the building of it to defend his lower-lying kingdom from the marauding Welsh hill tribes. Its remains vary from a shallow ditch in some places to massive earthworks elsewhere, and one of the finest long-distance footpaths in Britain follows much of its course.

Our circular route, which might take two or three days to complete and totals 172 miles, begins and ends in the Wye Valley, which at Symonds Yat passes through a deep gorge. The viewpoints above this beauty spot can be reached easily by car or, more pleasantly, by walking through deep woods resounding with birdlife. An unusual attraction for children here is the Museum of Mazes.

On the English side of the Wye spreads the Forest of Dean, again rich in birdlife and famous for its folklore. There are several excellent campsites here.

Goodrich Castle is a wonderful sandstone ruin with a moat excavated from solid rock. English Heritage is staging several events here during the summer, including some stirring battle reconstructions. At Ross-on-Wye, the spire of St Mary's Church rises 208ft above the rooftops of the old streets which spread out from the market place. The Market Hall dates from the 17th century and the Wilton Bridge from 100 years earlier. Other impressive castle ruins are to be found at Skenfrith and Grosmont.

Parts of the castle walls and a gateway also remain at Hay-on-Wye, although a more recent attraction is what claims to be the largest second-hand bookshop in the world, in the old cinema. In fact, the whole town is peppered with bookshops. On the way to Hay, our route passes the atmospheric ruins of Abbey Dore, just as attractive on a smaller scale as the massive remains of Tintern which inspired Wordsworth and which lie on the last leg of our journey between Chepstow and Monmouth.

From Hay, the route takes us past yet another castle ruin at Bronllys, towards the glowering masses of the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons. Brecon is a delightful place, with a 13th-century cathedral and a castle now in the grounds of a hotel to denote what an important strategic centre it once was.

It is one of the best places for heading off into the Brecon Beacons National Park, with its excellent walking, climbing and pony-trekking facilities. If you are planning any of these, go properly equipped. The weather can be fickle here and not for nothing do the SAS carry out survival training in the Brecon Beacons.

Near Brecon is the terminus of the Brecon and Monmouth Canal, upon which boats can be hired. And this being Wales, you're never far from a railway: the Brecon Mountain line runs for four picturesque miles through the valley from Pontsticill. Talybont-on-Usk and Abergavenny are also good centres for visiting the national park.

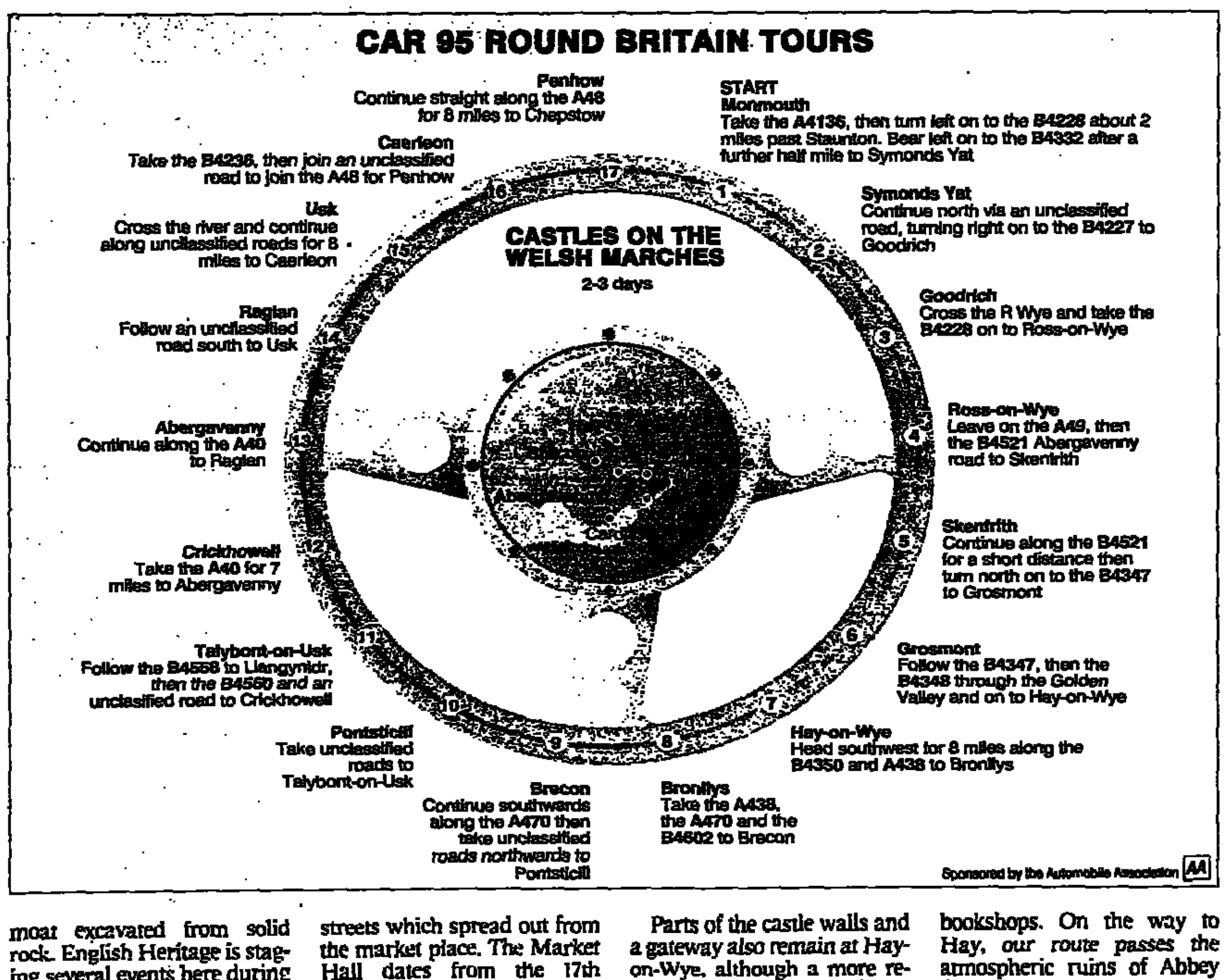
If you are not tired of castles there are more at Crickhowell, Abergavenny, Raglan, Usk, Penhow and Caldicot. Penhow is said to be the oldest inhabited castle in Wales and although it is privately owned it is open to the public. Like the castle at Raglan, it was built originally as a fortified manor house. Usk also houses the Gwent Rural Life Museum, and its church boasts a wonderfully restored Tudor rood screen. By way of contrast, there is an excellent Roman amphitheatre built to accomodate 5,000 and a Legionary Museum at Caerleon, which stands on the site of the Roman city of Isca, base for one of the four permanent legions in Britain.

> 'Many areas are rich in birdlife and famous in folklore'

There are more Roman remains at Caerwent, which is built on the site of the only known walled Roman civilian settlement in Wales.

For the castle enthusiast, we have saved the best for last. That at Chepstow, which the Normans began building just a year after the conquest, could not fail to impress any traveller. It dominates the town, towering over its neighbouring musueum which describes the history of this border area. This is no place for anybody who lacks a head for heights. The best views can be obtained by climbing the ramparts. One side of its fortifications sweep along the cliffs above a long meander of the Wye. At some points its wonderfully preserved curtain walls seem simply to grow out of these vertiginous rocks.

Treasures of Britain
Weekend, page 17



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Skenfrith
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Grosmont
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Hay-on-Wye
Head southwest for 8 miles along the B4350 and A438 to Bronllys

Bronllys
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Brecon
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Pontsticill
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Talybont-on-Usk
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Crickhowell
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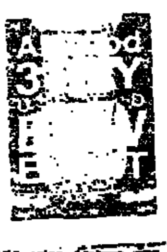

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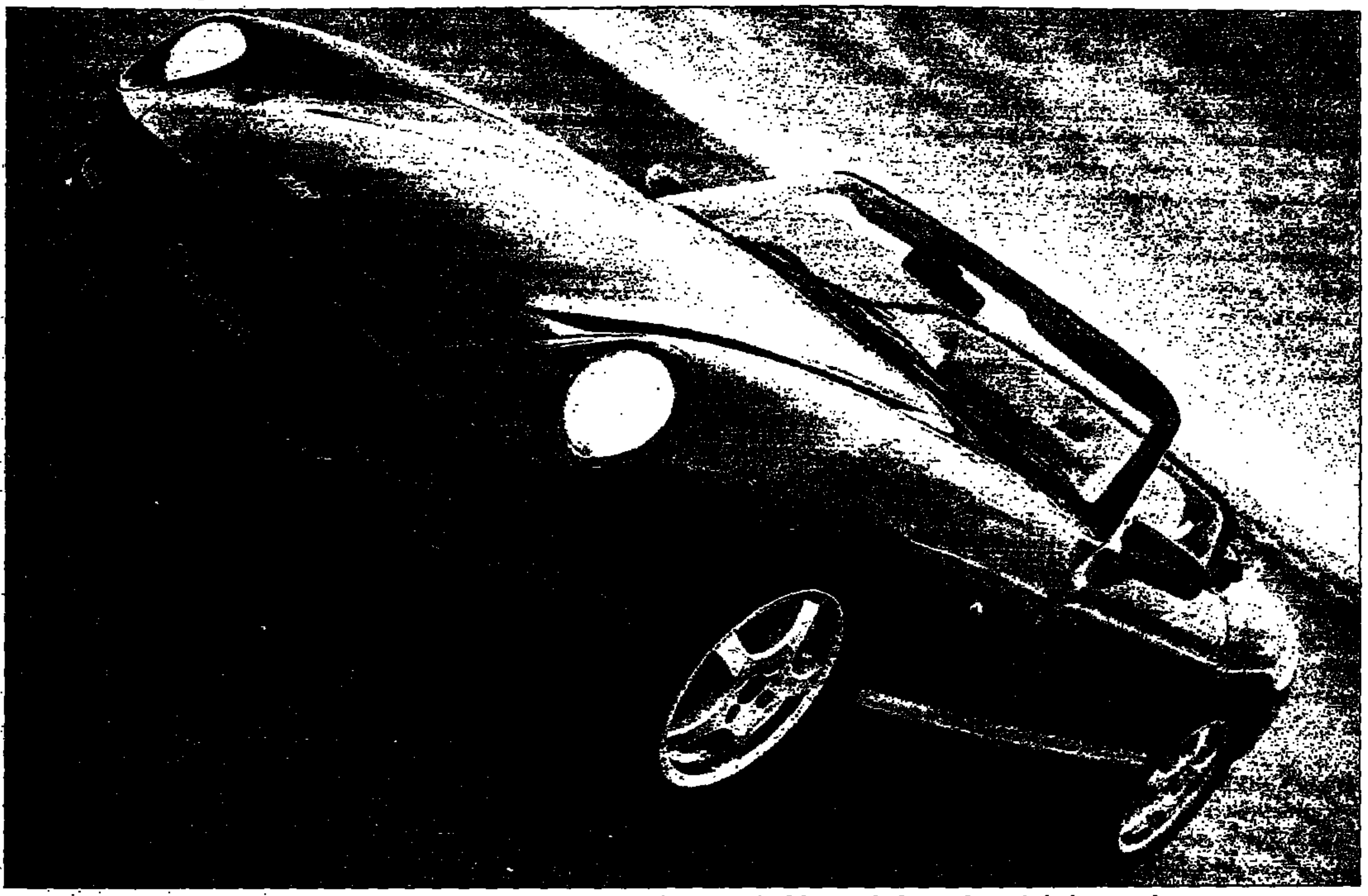

Captivating: the Chimaera has helped to lure lady buyers, but with the launch of the new Cerbera 2x2 coupé, the best may be yet to come

Helen Mound on the rapid rise of 'Trevcar Motors'

Blackpool is an unlikely location for one of the world's biggest independent sports car manufacturers, but although "kiss-me-quick" hats hardly match the image, that is where TVR has its base.

The firm makes hairy-chested models such as the beautiful Chimaera and Griffith roadsters, cars that have muscles and growl like old-fashioned sports cars should.

TVR has grown from a company that sold a handful of kit cars, powered by old American engines, to manufacturing specialist cars that are envied around the world.

Peter Wheeler is the original "I liked the car so much I bought the company" man, a TVR enthusiast who made his money during the North Sea oil boom and was looking for a new project to excite him. He looked at his beloved TVR Tasmin and then discovered the company was on the market in 1980. At the time it was making fewer than 150 cars a year — but Wheeler had bigger ideas.

Staff numbers have trebled to 350 since his arrival and last month production rose 20 per cent to record levels. Output this year should top more than 1,000 Chimaeras and Griffiths, and that could rise to 1,500 when TVR begins turning out its latest creation, the hardtop 2+2 Cerbera.

The company once known as Trevcar Motors (after Trevor Wilkinson, who founded the business in 1947) has also doubled its factory space to 160,000 sq ft.

The thoroughly-modern face of TVR started with the launch of the Griffith in 1990. It was an instant success and the company has sold about 2,000 in the past three years. The car's bold, curvy lines were an important step away from the sharp-edged, two-seater sports cars with whale-fins which were favoured by men who wore medallions and chest-wigs in the 1970s and early 1980s. Such soft lines are echoed on the Chimaera, launched in 1992, which has replaced the little S roadster.

TVR still hand-builds its cars using glass-fibre bodies, including six priming coats of paint. Attention to detail has been stepped up greatly in recent years to the extent that it takes 500 man hours to build just one car.

Adopting a sexier look has also changed its image from a maker of cars for men with muscles to models that appeal to both men and women. Women now account for more than a quarter of sales, a change from a few years ago when few women could have handled the heavy steering and clumsy pedals of a TVR. Now every car has power steering.

The £27,850 Chimaera has played a big part in attracting female buyers. But the most ambitious step will be the introduction of the Cerbera coupé, which has TVR's own 4.2-litre V8 engine instead of bought-in hardware.

DR DASHBOARD

How to protect young passengers

Q **We are just back from an Easter break and the children drove us potty in the back seats. We couldn't stop them jumping about.**

A Does that mean they weren't strapped in? If they weren't, you were not only breaking the law, you were seriously risking their lives too. More than 50 children die and 1,000 are badly injured every year because they were not strapped in.

Q **But they refuse. They like to be free to move about and would kick up an even worse rumpus if we made them sit still.**

A Well, you will just have to suffer. Not strapping them in means a maximum fine of £500 for the driver. They might bleat initially, but they might as well learn now that seatbelts are a must each time they go on a car journey.

Q **We have seen lots of children free in back seats and they seem fine.**

A Not surprising you see so many as more than half of parents do not buckle up their kids, according to the police. That does not mean they are right, only daft.

Q **Surely child restraints and seats are a waste of time? They do not work and some children have wriggled free.**

A True. Karen Staff, a mother of two in Cheshire, was horrified to look back and discover her 15-month-old son, Christopher, had disappeared Houdini-like from his £50 child seat. Trading standards officers say you must choose a seat which suits the shape, size and temperament of your child. A huge seat and a tiny baby will not work, neither will one with a simple-to-operate lock and a bright, bouncy toddler.

Q **We have no idea how to choose the right one. What do we do?**

A Aim for restraints or seats which carry the British Standards Institution (BSI) kitemark or the European Regulation RS44 logo. As a rough guide, a child to nine months needs a rear-facing seat with three-point harness; up to four years, a rear-facing seat with head supports; up to 12, a booster cushion or specialised seat with head restraint and three-point harness. Britax won the *Mother and Baby* magazine awards for its range between £40 to £80 but some manufacturers, such as Volvo, offer built-in equipment which has foldaway seats in some models. If in doubt, consult your dealer or local road safety officer.

Q **But with more than one child, how are we supposed to afford equipment that we will have to keep changing as they grow?**

A Try buying second-hand, as long as the equipment is sound. The key is to have it checked and installed properly. The BSI estimates four in five child seats are fitted incorrectly, so go to a reputable dealer or check with the seat manufacturer.

Q **Anything else to look out for?**

A Don't fit a rear-facing child seat in the front if you have a passenger airbag, for example. If it goes off, it will tip up the seat and crush the baby. And beware that seatbelts which are designed for adults could easily strangle children.

BMW

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94L	C180 Eleg	Smoke Silver	13T	£20,750
94M	C180 Eleg	Brilliant Silver	9T	£21,250
94K	C180 Eleg	Tourmaline	12T	£21,450
94M	C200 Eleg	Polar White	10T	£22,750
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94M	C250D Class	Smoke Silver	8T	£22,250
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94M	E200	Onyx Grey	8T	£23,250
93L	E200	Brilliant Silver	20T	£20,950
94L	E200	Imperial Red	11T	£22,950
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94M	C180 Eleg	Brilliant Silver	10T	£21,500
94M	C180 Sport	Almandine	13T	£20,950
94M	C200 Eleg	Blue Black	11T	£23,250
94M	C200 Eleg	Polar White	11T	£23,250
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94L	C250D Eleg	Imperial Red	9T	£23,950
94M	C250D Eleg	Pearl Blue	8T	£24,750
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Is this the ugliest car in Britain?

That's how a top trucker describes Ford's Scorpio — and plenty agree with him, finds Kevin Eason

JAMES MORGAN

Can they be serious? A bemused youth touches on one of the Scorpio's less endearing features, its "smiling mouth" grille. "It looks ridiculous," said schoolboy Nick Brennan

Tony Mason, presenter of BBC's *Top Gear*, doesn't like the front. Edward Stobart, Britain's best-known trucker, isn't too keen on the back. And Ken Greenley, designer and a director at the Royal College of Art, is fairly unimpressed with everything in between.

It seems that no matter which way you look at it, Ford's Scorpio is just plain ugly.

The Scorpio was Ford's attempt to break out of its image as the manufacturer which had lost the lead in design. Each new launch was accompanied by a chorus of critics singing the same tune: the cars were too bland and plain boring.

The old Granada — driven by cops in countless television series, transport of thousands of middle-aged businessmen and the solid limousine for dozens of politicians — fitted straight into the mould, its lines so bland the car could be overlooked in a car park of one vehicle.

So Ford decided to do something about it and told its designers to throw out all conventional ideas and pitch for the dramatic look. The result is the Scorpio.

It is a love it or loathe it model. If you love it, the Scorpio is a car with refreshing lines different to all its competitors; if you hate it, it is nothing more than a leaden hump with headlamps like big, staring eyes and a wide mouth of a radiator grille, looking like a surprised frog.

Ford bosses knew they were in for a pasting from day one because when photographs were first shown, the reaction was worse than Eric Cantona could expect at Crystal Palace. Everybody hated it.

Alex Trotman, Ford's British-born chairman, tried to look cool but the words hurt — a lot. Trotman's response was that the world was not ready for the Scorpio's radical features and he believes attitudes will soften over time. "It is very different," he says. "But we were looking for something different, something that would mark out the Scorpio from the rest of the crowd and we wanted to be bold and try out a new look.

"So the reaction has been critical but the sales figures tell us that people like the Scorpio. It is selling well right across Europe and we think the car will do very well."

Sales, in fact, are up, with 4,000 Scorpios registered in Britain so far this year and almost 3,000 orders on file, when the old Granada that the Scorpio replaced sold only about 10,000 in the whole of last year. However, about 80 per cent of those sales are to fleets whose companies get a discount — and the company car driver gets no choice.

In any event, the Scorpio still lags in the executive sales charts behind Vauxhall's Omega, a car with styling just as radical but a more purposeful design that looks complete. The Scorpio, in contrast, could have been designed by a committee — and that a committee of people in sunglasses sitting in the dark.

There was, though, a chance that Trotman's theory would work and that the droopy nose and humped boot would grow on people as increasing numbers of Scorpios took to the road.

In the interests of fairness, *CAR 95* sampled a wide range of opinion to discover whether the Scorpio was the brave new face of motoring . . . or nothing more than a top-notch clunker.

"Out of place": Tony Mason takes a dim view of the lights

Back trouble: the rear's all wrong, says Edward Stobart

We asked Tony Mason, commentator and rally pundit for *Top Gear*, the country's most watched motoring television programme, what he thought. He grimaced and decided he had little time for the styling — particularly those big headlamps.

"The exterior just doesn't look as though it is a complete shape," he said, "and the headlamps look out of place."

Edward Stobart, managing director of Eddie Stobart Ltd, Britain's biggest independent transport firm, and a potential Scorpio customer, also disliked the shape, especially when the Scorpio was parked next to his BMW 740. "The Scorpio does not have anything like the good looks of the BMW," he complained. "The rear is far too featureless. I just don't like it and I wouldn't want one at all."

Jenny Nobes, a medical student at St Bartholemew's Hospital in London, was more graphic: "It looks like one of those fairground cars with a silly face on the front."

If Ms Nobes was cutting, Chris Harvey, a 24-year-old insurance broker who drives a Ford Escort, was positively scathing: "It is like something out of Walt Disney. Someone has gone on acid and tripped to the Seventies for the front!"

Is there nobody out there who likes the Scorpio? Not according to Matthew Smalley, who drives a Renault 21. He said: "The headlights are revolting. I don't know what the designers were doing."

Even the buyers of the future, not shackled by traditions, were unsure, if 14-year-old schoolboy Nick Brennan was anything to go by. "It doesn't have much of a personality. The front of the car is like a face with a huge beaming smile. It looks a bit ridiculous really."

Roy Winter, a sales manager, is a potential buyer. "This is right in my market sector — but I don't like it at all. When you walk to your car in a car park, you want to feel proud, but I wouldn't feel proud of this. It's the ugliest car going."

There are some grounds for Mr Trotman to take heart, though. Everybody liked the Scorpio's plush interior and both Mason and Stobart praised the car's ride and performance.

Stobart latter enthused: "It drives really well. There is lots of power and it is beautifully smooth and precise. I like the feel of the car, especially on winding roads."

Ah, so that's alright then. Except Mr Stobart added: "Trouble is, it is just the ugliest car in Britain."

● *Street interviews by Alasdair Hamblin*

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Punto helps Fiat to top the charts

The Fiat Punto is Europe's bestselling car, the first time for eight years that an Italian model has topped the sales charts. More than 930,000 orders have been taken for the Punto since its 1993 launch, while the car's popularity in Britain has helped Fiat sales to improve 40 per cent this year.

Alert on fraud

Motorists are warned to watch their credit cards. More than 150 plastic cards are stolen from cars daily, according to the Association of Car Fleet Operators, which says fraud runs to an average of £490 for each lost card.

All systems go

Ford has installed its Safeguard immobiliser system to all Escort and Mondeo diesel models. The system, previously on petrol versions only, uses 50 billion possible combinations to unlock the code that allows the engine to start.

Close shave

Robert McDonald regretted the day he bet his staff they couldn't sell 200 new Nissans from his dealership in Georgia, America. They did and he had to pay up — by having his head shaved. He now wears a hat, reports *Automotive News*, America's motor industry newspaper.

Safety blitz

Road users will be asked to "Look and See" next month in a campaign to cut death and injuries among motorcyclists. Sixty per cent of accidents involving motorcycles are caused by drivers who do not spot the machine coming, says the British Motorcyclists' Federation.

Fuel price rise

Petrol prices rose in April for the second month running. Four-star prices increased most, by a penny a litre (4.5p a gallon) to an average 61p a litre (277.4p a gallon). Unleaded was up 0.8p to 55.1p (250.4p) and diesel 0.9p to 55.2p (251.1p).

First of many

The Volkswagen Cabriolet TDi is the world's first production diesel-powered convertible. Prices start at £13,298 up to £18,099 for the 1.8 and 2-litre diesels that can return up to 50 miles to the gallon.

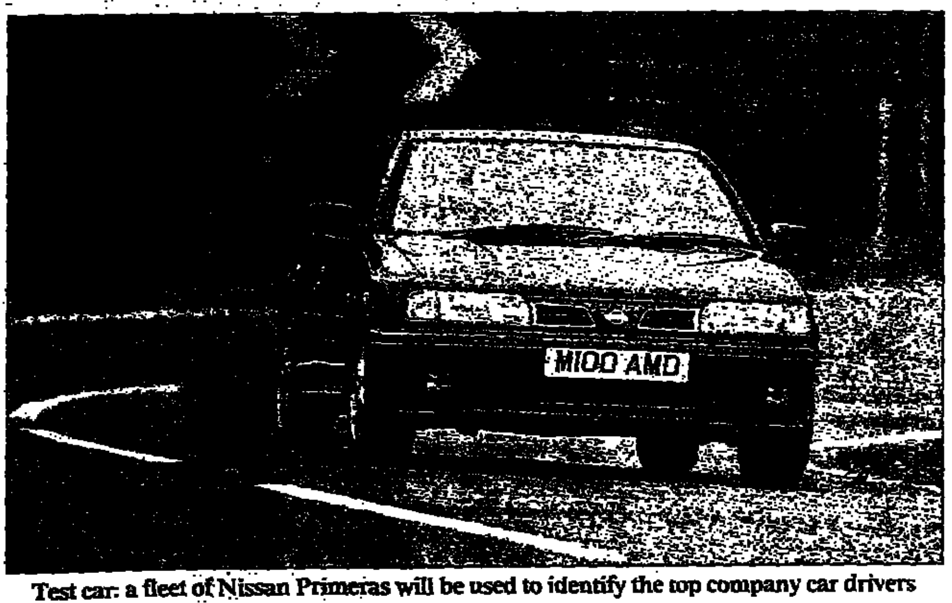
£50m order

The AA has ordered 5,500 Rover 100 cars, worth £50 million, for its driving school. The 111GSi models will be used by an estimated 250,000 learners over the next three years.

Time to raise your standards

THE TIMES
Lease Plan
Company Car Driver 1995

Are you safe and sound on the roads? If so, you can win a free holiday in our quest for the best


Test car: a fleet of Nissan Primeras will be used to identify the top company car drivers

Wayward trees, lampposts and garage doors are proving something of an ordeal for Britain's accident-prone company car drivers.

More than 7 per cent managed to hit an "immobile object" last year in their business vehicles.

A survey by Lease Plan, which manages 40,000 fleet cars, shows plenty of reasons for raising driving standards, a development encouraged by the search for *The Times*/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year.

Nissan, which is providing a fleet of vehicles for the six regional heats, will be anxious to avoid the sort of niggling damage that has become a daily hazard. Drivers who enter the exacting contest will use a £15,000 Primera 2.0 SLX to prove their skills on road and track to examiners from Drive Tech, one of Britain's leading driver training schools.

We want 120 teams of three to take part, along with their fleet managers, who will also be tested. Teams will be selected via a surprise telephone quiz to test knowledge of the Highway Code. Regional winners will go through to the final at the Silverstone Driving Centre under the watchful eye of John Watson, the former Formula One driver.

Top prize is an expenses-paid touring holiday for two in Europe in a car provided by Lease Plan, plus £500 spending money. The winning company gets free training for a dozen of its drivers.

The winners will probably be more astute than the four in ten drivers on Lease Plan's fleet who made an insurance claim last year. The company says 40 per cent of the accidents could probably have been avoided.

Claims showed 18 per cent involved a dent or scrape while the car was parked. Yet only 7.4 per cent of claims came from accidents while motorists negotiated T-junctions and 11.5 per cent from a collision on a roundabout.

The huge cost of repairs after accidents that could have been avoided is worrying insurers as well as managers of nearly three million company car drivers. A spokeswoman for the researchers says: "Apparently, trees and lampposts leap out in front of drivers."

Repairing a car hit while parked costs on average £356, while hitting "immobile objects" costs an average £416.

Colin Grant-Wilson, Lease Plan's managing director, says: "The fact that the majority of claims by company car drivers are for incidents which could have been avoided suggests companies should be looking to motivate drivers to be more careful."

He went on: "There is obviously a need for more driver training to address areas of weakness and refresh experienced drivers who are highly skilled but risk becoming complacent."

The severity of a crash, of course, affects the cost to companies and insurers. Motorists who lose concentration on the motorway and find themselves in a "concertina" accident, with both front and back damaged, racked up an average claim of £1,324.

Peter Barnard, page 2

THE TIMES

LEASE PLAN COMPANY CAR DRIVER 1995

Company ....
Address ....
.... Postcode ....
Entrant .... Position ....
Entrant should be the director/senior manager responsible for your company's car fleet.
Tel No .... Fax No ....
Nature of Business ....
No of employees .... No of company cars ....

Nominated drivers

Surname .... Age	Surname .... Age ......
Forename(s)	Forename(s) ....
Job title	Job title ....
How long employed .... yrs Points on licence	How long employed .... yrs Points on licence ....
Surname .... Age	Surname .... Age ......
Forename(s)	Forename(s) ....
Job title	Job title ....
How long employed .... yrs Points on licence	How long employed .... yrs Points on licence ....

Please select one first and one second choice for the location and date of your team's regional heat (indicate your selection by placing a 1 or 2 within box):

Oxford, (Moat House), 8th June ☐
Nottingham, (Moat House), 14th June ☐
Hereford, (Moat House), 28th June ☐
Ware, Hertfordshire, (Briggens House Hotel) 12th July ☐
Glasgow, (Moat House International), 22nd June ☐
Blackburn, (Moat House), 4th July ☐

Please ensure that you and your nominated drivers are available on both your first and second choice and for the final at Silverstone on Friday, 11th August. Initial qualification will be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

Send completed entries by 17 May, 1995 to: The Times - Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1995, Leedex PR, 52-54 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FF

COMPETITION RULES

The closing date for entries is 17 May 1995. Drivers must be over 24 years of age to enter. Maximum number of endorsements on any competitors' driving licence is three points. Drivers must bring their current driving licence to their regional heat for confirmation of the above. Drivers must be nominated by the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Drivers must be nominated in groups of three. Companies can only enter one team to compete. The entrant may nominate him/herself as part of the team. Competitors must drive a company car or vehicle as part of their employment or renumeration package. Qualification for the team/company award will be dependant on a written test, to be completed by the entrant at their team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, Drive Tech, Nissan, News International and the Birkdale Group are not permitted to enter. In the spirit of the event, specialist organisations such as driver training companies, police, the armed forces and the like may not be permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed by post, at least ten days prior to the heat. In the event of over-subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a driver telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify for the regional heat, the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the first heat and the team will be placed on a reserve list. Feedback on each driver's performance will be available after the competition. The reserve driver will be called upon at the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to attend, the next highest scoring driver from that regional heat will be invited to attend in their place. The prize for the winner will be a seven day European motoring holiday for two. The team/company prize will be a driver programme for twelve employees. Cash alternatives are not available. The judges's decision is final.

Avalanche of sports coupés predicted to hit values

By Vaughan Freeman

FALLING in love with any of the topless sporting models *due to arrive on the car* market this year could prove a costly infatuation, would-be buyers were warned this week.

So many two-seat, two-door, *convertible sports* models will arrive on forecourts over the next two years that *industry analysts believe used* prices will tumble as supply rises.

Rover's MGF, which goes on sale in the summer, is the first of half a dozen or so such cars scheduled for launch in the UK. This "fun car" market previously has been served only by cars such as the Mazda MX-5 roadster, priced from £13,000, Honda's £16,000 CRX coupé and Toyota's £20,000 MR2.

The £16,000-£18,000 MGF will be followed by Fiat's Barchetta coupé and BMW's *American-built Roadster*, due next year and expected to be priced from about £20,000. *Other new entries* include a new Spider from Alfa Romeo, the Boxster from Porsche — due next year and likely to cost about *£30,000 — and, further* ahead, a Kia-engined Lotus Elan replacement.

All of which, says industry economist Andrew Wilkinson, means future second-*hand values of such cars,* which have traditionally held up extremely well, are certain *to fall.*

Mr Wilkinson, Editorial Director with CAP Motor Research, the car price analysts, said: "They might be fun, cheeky and cheery, but *that is no guarantee* these cars will defy the basic laws of supply and demand. With *sports coupés about to start* rolling off production lines in a big way, despite the hype, values will fall."

Exchange rates are compelling the big German carmakers to charge more, reports **Kevin Eason**

Strong mark forces up prices

German carmakers are being forced to put up prices by *hundreds of* pounds to keep pace with the rapid rise of the mark on *foreign currency markets.*

Calculators have come out in finance departments *throughout the European motor* industry as companies try to calculate the winners and losers *in the* turbulent foreign exchanges.

So far, there are two clear *conclusions for Britain*: German cars will cost more but British cars and components *will be big profit-makers on* the Continent if the mark continues its advance against sterling.

BMW started the reaction to what was happening in the City with average increases on sticker prices of about 2.5 per *cent, followed by* Mercedes-Benz, which this week told dealers to put an average 2.5 *per cent on prices of all models* in British showrooms from next month. That means about *£750 on the cost of one of the* company's £30,000 saloons. However, current orders are *not affected by the increase,* and only cars coming off the assembly lines from May will *carry the new pricing.*

Volkswagen has also reacted although its increase is lower, at 2 per cent from this month.

The German manufacturers need bigger increases to offset the effect of a near 10 per cent currency swing but dare not raise prices higher because of the intensive competition in *the British* marketplace this year.

BMW has set itself a record *sales target* of 50,000 cars this year and is well on the way to achieving its ambitions, with *registrations in the first* quarter up 28.2 per cent. Mercedes is also enjoying a revival, mainly because of the success of its C-class models, with sales *between January* and March up from 8,657 last year to 9,128 this.

Only VW is struggling, with the introduction of the new Polo surprisingly failing to lift sales so far this year. First quarter registrations were down from 21,866 to 19,699. Volkswagen *said it had* contained the price rise to try to keep on course its value-for-money strategy, attacking the universal impression that German cars are more expensive than *their* rivals. The increase makes the cheapest Volkswagen, the *Polo L*, £6,999, compared with £6,995 for the Ford Fiesta Azura, its main competitor in the small *car sector.*

However, if the German makers cannot put up prices, *they will have to accept lower* profits until the value of the deutschmark settles.

John Evans, UK spokesman for Mercedes, says: "We have told dealers to implement a price rise which is substantially less than the movement in the value of the deutschmark, because we have to remain competitive in what is a difficult marketplace.

"Mercedes *has been* tackling the issue by increasing productivity by about 30 per *cent over the past year, which* cuts our factory costs and helps us absorb this move*ment in the currency.* However, we are convinced this is a short-term problem anyway, so we are not too worried."

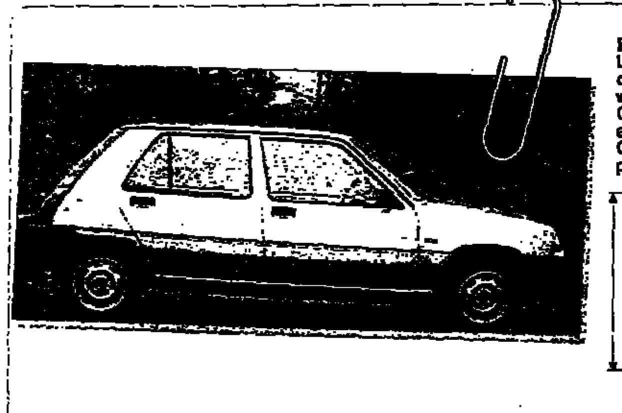
Chris Willows, BMW's spokesman, says: "It is a tough market and we have deliberately not tried to put up prices by the amount of currency movements because we have ambitious sales targets we *want to achieve.*

"We hope it will not go on for too long anyway but our *plan is not to put up prices* again until the autumn at the earliest."

Ironically, BMW can enjoy the benefits of the currency changes through the Rover subsidiary it bought a year ago for £800 million. Although profits on BMWs sold in the UK will be hit, the sale of Rovers into Germany becomes more profitable with every upward movement of the mark.

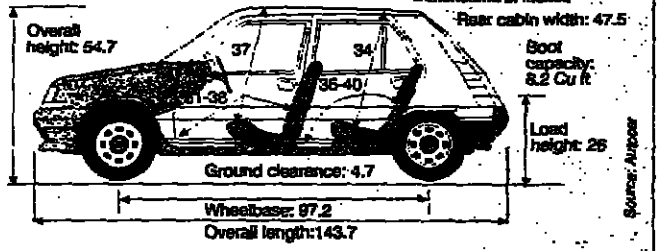
The cost advantage comes at the right time for Rover, increasing its penetration of the German market after selling 11,465 cars there last year, compared with 10,830 in 1993. The *British* company has even received the first 100 orders from BMW managers in Munich who want Rovers as their new company cars.

USED CAR BRIEF



RENAULT 5

Launched in 1972, the three and five-door hatch were cheap, chic and cheerful. Relaunched in 1987 with the Campus. All post 1987 cars came with servo-assisted brakes (ventilated discs on the 120mph GT Turbo); and GTX and GT Turbo had central locking and electric front windows. With everything from early 1.0 litre through to 1.4 litre petrol auto, 1.8 litre petrol GTX and 1.6 litre diesel, there is a wide range to choose from. The 5 was phased out as the Renault Clio came in from 1991



GOOD NEWS: *The 5 has a* reputation for *thin bodywork* and rust, but the *engines equally* are renowned for their longevity. Fuel consumption of up to 50mpg is common. The Renault 5 has been around a long time and there are plenty of examples for sale *privately and through* dealerships

BAD NEWS: *Early cars* (pre-1987) in particular *are prone to rust* and should be checked carefully *around* the rear wheel arches, the floorpan under mats and carpets, as well as around the front wings. Check also all electrical equipment such as central locking and electric windows, which *can be prone* to faulty service

SAFETY RATING: The Renault *5 does well* on safety, *rated by the Department* of Transport as slightly above average for cars in the mini and supermini class, on a par with the VW Polo and Vauxhall Nova, and ahead of rivals in the sector such *as the Rover Mini* and early Nissan Micra

TO AVOID: Turbo-charged versions are *now becoming* cult machines, which could prove a costly error unless you, or an expert friend, know what to look for. Turbos should also be checked carefully for crash damage and other signs of less than *careful ownership*

LOOK FOR: Five-door cars offer best value *for money* and also give a few inches *more rear legroom*. The special edition Monaco model has leather seats for a little added luxury. Seek out post-1987 "Phase Two" cars, and generally the newer the car the better

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1989 Renault 5 1.7 GTX will cost a 55-year-old professional, male or female, with full no claims bonus, living *in Winchester*, £155 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year old male living *in south London with one year no claims* bonus will pay £749 fully comprehensive, and a similar female will pay £647

PRICE RANGE: Expect to pay around £1,500 for a 1987 D-reg 1.1 litre Campus four-speed, £3,500 for a 1992 K-reg 1.1 litre Campus, £4,100 for a 1.4litre 1993 K-reg five-speed Campus, *£4,750 for a 1991 J-reg GT Turbo*, and £3,500 for a 1989 G-reg GTX

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT); Front wing £40; clutch assembly £85; front brakepads £50; *rear shock absorber* £41; starter motor £83; alternator £90; *exhaust pipe* and silencer £33; tyre £40 to £50

OVERALL: Provided you steer clear of earlier models, and unchecked GT Turbos, a rust-free Renault 5 *makes good motoring sense* for those seeking economical *driving, with the Campus* probably the best of the bunch

50 BESTSELLING USED CARS

MODEL	PRICE 95 April	May	Chg %
Renault 19 RT 1.4 5dr	8,775	8,775	0.00
Honda Prelude 2.0 Coupe	14,995	14,695	-2.00
Lexus LS 400 Saloon	35,000	35,000	0.00
Peugeot 106 XND Graduate 3dr	6,550	6,395	-2.37
Audi 100 2.0E Saloon	13,750	13,695	-0.40
Rover 820 SLi Auto Saloon	15,095	14,950	-0.96
Toyota Corolla 1.3 GLi 5dr	9,495	9,650	1.63
Volvo 440 SE 2.0 5dr	10,250	10,395	1.41
Vauxhall Cavalier LS TD 5dr	9,625	9,625	0.00
Nissan Micra 1.0 LX 5dr	6,650	6,695	0.68
Jaguar XJ6 4.0 S Auto Saloon	26,000	25,750	-0.96
Chrysler Jeep 4.0 Ltd SE Auto 5dr	20,500	20,500	0.00
BMW 320i SE 4dr	18,250	18,150	-0.55
Ford Maverick 2.4i GLX 5dr	14,550	14,550	0.00
Discovery 300 TDi 5dr	19,295	18,995	-1.55
Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 GLXi 5dr	10,350	10,500	1.45
Honda Civic LSi 3dr	9,525	9,395	-1.36
Fiat Cinquecento SX 3dr	5,095	4,995	-1.96
Volkswagen Golf 1.8 GL 5dr	10,495	10,250	-2.33
Isuzu Trooper 3.2i 5dr	17,950	17,750	-1.11
Audi 80 2.0E 4dr	12,550	12,550	0.00
Citroen Xantia 1.8SX	10,895	10,895	0.00
Ford Mondeo 2.0 Ghia 5dr	11,550	11,550	0.00
Mazda 626 2.0 GLX 5dr	12,150	12,150	0.00
Rover 214 SLi 5dr	8,695	8,695	0.00
Mercedes Benz E220 Auto 4dr	22,895	22,500	-1.73
Saab 900 2.0si 5dr	14,250	14,250	0.00
Hyundai Lantra 1.6 GLSi 16V 4dr	7,850	7,850	0.00
Ford Escort 1.6i LX 5dr	8,595	8,495	-1.17
Volkswagen Passat 1.8 CL	10,595	10,595	0.00
Suzuki Vitara JLX	10,295	10,295	0.00
Nissan Sunny 1.4LX 5dr	7,995	7,795	-2.51
BMW 318i 4dr	15,895	15,795	-0.63
Audi 2.0i 16V Coupe	15,450	15,450	0.00
Kia Pride 1.1L	3,725	3,595	-3.49
Fiat Uno 45 1.0ie Start 3dr	4,895	4,895	0.00
Peugeot 106 1.4XT 3dr	7,350	7,250	-1.37
Vauxhall Astra 2.0 GSi 16V 3dr	11,195	11,595	3.50
Vauxhall Cavalier 1.8LS 5dr	8,775	8,775	0.00
Volvo 460 2.0 SE	10,495	10,195	-2.86
Proton 1.3GE 4dr	5,195	5,000	-3.76
Rover Metro 1.1S 5dr	6,095	5,995	-1.65
Fiat Punto 55S 3dr	5,895	5,895	0.00
Renault Safrane 2.0 RN	12,495	12,450	-0.37
Lada Niva 3dr	6,095	6,095	0.00
Nissan Sunny 1.4L 5dr	7,395	7,450	0.74
Daihatsu Applause 1.5 GLXi 5dr	9,695	9,575	-1.24
Seat Ibiza 1.3 CLX 5dr	6,975	6,895	-1.15
Rover Montego 2.0 Clubman Estate	7,895	7,895	0.00
Peugeot 405 GLi 4dr	8,250	8,195	-0.66

CAP NATIONWIDE MOTOR RESEARCH LTD

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices. HB = hatchback, S = saloon. Price changes based on L-reg, low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP Nationwide Motor Research.

PEOPLE-MOVERS, the multi-seat vehicles increasingly moving on to Britain's roads, could reach strong resale prices, according to ICA, the independent auctioneers.

The firm is going against fears that new models from Honda, Peugeot, Citroën, Fiat, Ford and Volkswagen will depress prices.

John Bailey, ICA's managing director, says: "A pointer to how strong the resale values of popular models can be is in the 4x4 market, where demand has remained strong despite increasing numbers of marques on the market."

ICA recently sold a J-registered, five-door Renault Espace 2L RT with more than 83,000 miles on the clock for £7,850, compared to the value quoted by *Glass's Guide* of £6,975.

A new plant owned jointly by Ford and Volkswagen opened in Portugal this week. The AutoEuropa factory will make the Ford Galaxy and VW Sharan people-movers.

LEXUS

LEXUS
COOPER PARK LANE
LS400
94(L) Champagne 7841mls £35,995
94(L) Oxford Blue 17623 mls £34,995
93(L) Oxford Blue 18315 mls £31,795
93(L) Oxford Blue 20000 mls £31,495
93(L) Oxford Blue 30947 mls £30,995
92(K) Lucerne silver 43,504 mls £24,995
92(J) Lucerne 35807mls with extended Lexus warranty £25,995
GS300
95(M) Tempest Grey 3241 mls mint condition £POA
94(L) Lucerne silver 7895 mls FSH, with car phone £28,995
SUPRA
94 (M) Twin turbo, White auto, FSH, 7890 mls £36,995
CONTACT ANDREW GULL OR DANIEL MORGAN
0171 355 4737

Hylton LEXUS
THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

MERCEDES

190 E 2.0 1988 F blue/blk 70,000 miles, just serviced, lwd 16in rims, alarm £8,200 0171 235 8209 0385 312 680

190 auto 1987D, grey, 62,000 mls, electric sun roof, ABS brakes, 1 owner from new FSH £6,380 0171 916 6951 after 7pm/weekends

190D AMG 2.5. Oct '92 K. 1 own. sig red, alloys. 39k Stereo Alm FSH Recent serv. 4 new tyres. Tax Oct 95 Immac £15,995 016394 44735

190E 2.6 1991 (H) Automatic Metallic Beryl with Cream Cloth, 1 owner Low mileage FSH Immaculate condition £15,250 Tel. 01582 460911

300SE G-reg air lthr high mileage 1onr FSH vgc £10,800 PX 01276 476300 /0860 295940 T

190E Auto 93 K. almandine/cream hide. 32,000 mls. FSH, armrest, alloys, cruise, ESR, HWW, e/windws, OTG, r h/rests. 70 L fuls, rear splr, radio/CD, £17,750 o.n.o. 01780 410676 (h)/ 01487 832022 (w) No canvassers

190E 1.8 Manual (91J). Dark Blue, 32,000 Miles, FSH, Immaculate, S/Roof + Stereo. 12 Month Warranty £11,495 Hildenborough 01732 832424

190 Ltd Edition 2.0 LE Auto L reg met blue 16,850 miles taxed totally unmarked offered at £18,750 01959 532310 T

200E Auto, Red, 1990, 56,000 mls, E/w, esr, remote alarm, r/cass, ABS, mats, 12 months MOT, Mercedes FSH, ex cond. £11,500. Tel: 0181 950 4346

300 SE '87, slab sides, excellent condition, gold with red trim, air/con, all electrics, Becker Mexico, 89,000 mls, 1 owner since '87, full history. Private no. £8,950. 01462 484691 (H).

200TE Auto 7 seat estate. 1991 J. 50,000 miles. Service History. Red. Superb condition £15,000. 01932 346268

220CE 94 M, Onyx/ sport cloth, walnut, FAR, alarm, stereo. 9K £29,750. 0181 871 0791 (H) 01526 716603 x16(O)

300CE 24V 90 H. Auto Sportline. 19,000 miles Immac. Blue/Blk. Grey hide. FMSH. Full spec. ABS, c/c, SRS, CD, e/heat sts. esr. £27,700 01727 831737

300 TE Estate. 1990 Metallic Bronze with Cream leather, Sports line, alloy wheels, many extras, FSH, 1 owner. £15,785. Tel: 01491 682006

300CE July 1989, blue/black, grey leather, a/c + other extras. FMBSH, 55k, 8 holes, immaculate, private sale, £17,800 ono. 0181 808 5649/5852

300CE 91J. Pearl blue/cream hide, a/c, walnut, esr, alloys, lowered susp, 1 onr, 38k, £27,995. Bramshaw 01202 396342.

560SEL
1988
Magnificent example, Impala/cream leather interior, 49,000 mls only, air con, elec memory seats, private reg, Alan Day maintained.
£17,500
0181 4406839

400SE
92 J
Metallic Blue
Cream Leather
Climate Control
38,000 Miles
£38,500
Tel:01535 634247
Or 0860 476008 T

250 D
July '92, Malachite metallic, mushroom cloth, sunroof, Elec rear windows, anti theft system, towbar, 35,000 miles. Superb car
£16,950.
Tel: 01628 483529.

230E AUTO
AUG 91 Blue Black Metallic/Beige Interior, Alloy Wheels, Rear head Rests, ESR & Windows, 32,000 Miles, FSH
£17,250
01702 217509
0860 215636 T

SL600
94L Black, black leather, full spec, 9,000 miles.
£85,995
Tel: 0181 954 8688 home
0171 636 7990 office

500 SEC
AMG version
Tasteful body kit & lowered suspension, new wide alloys & l/p tyres, white with navy blue int., special white instrumentation, ABS, ESR, cruise, air con, gged, low mileage.
£18,650
01992 768555

MERCEDES
SL 500.
1994 Pearl Blue, Blue Leather. 3,000 miles. Child seats. ABS. Alloys.
£64,950.
01702 205590 W/E & Eves or 01702 462929

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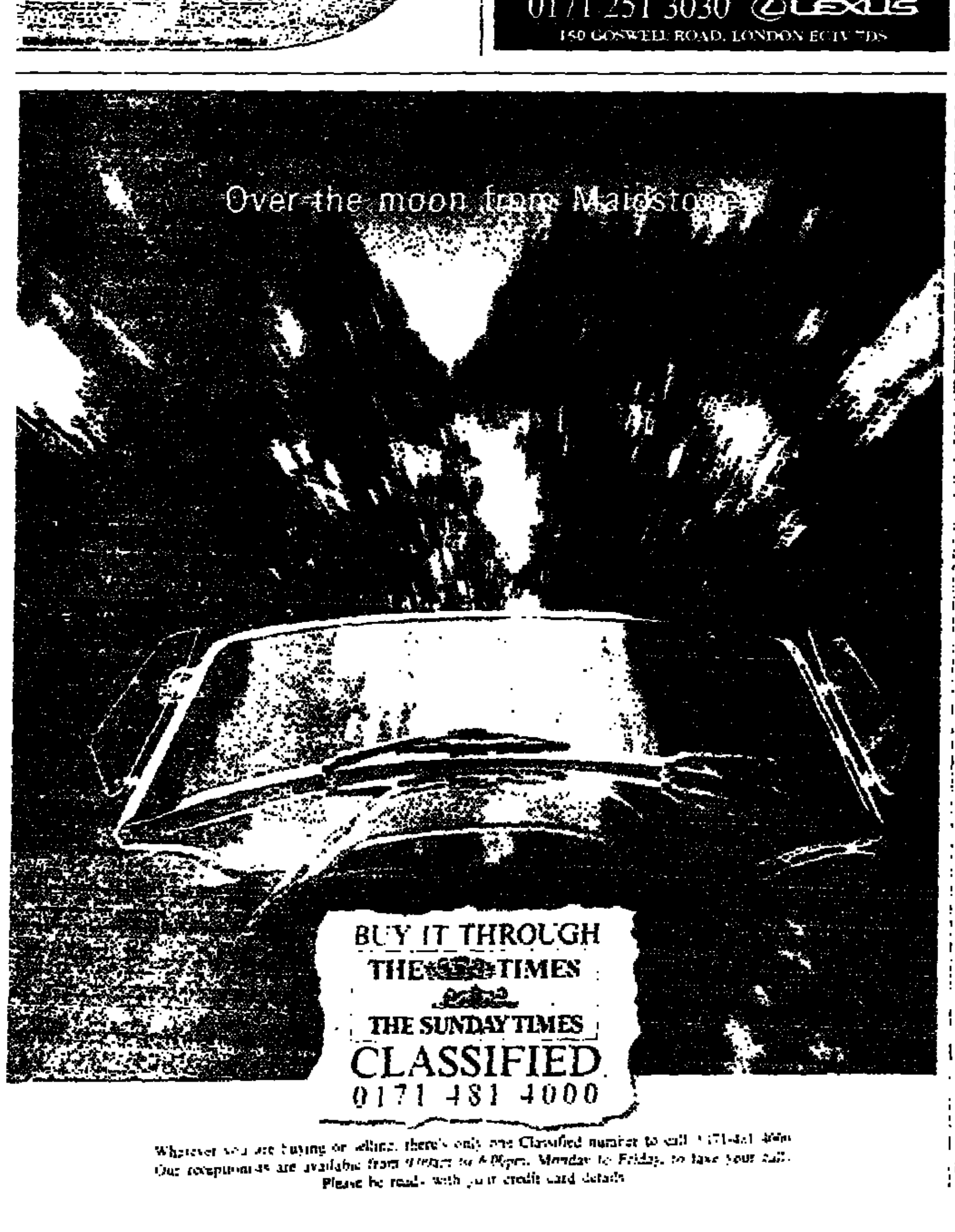
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£100m lab helps to put a shine on all-weather car

Anthony Lewis

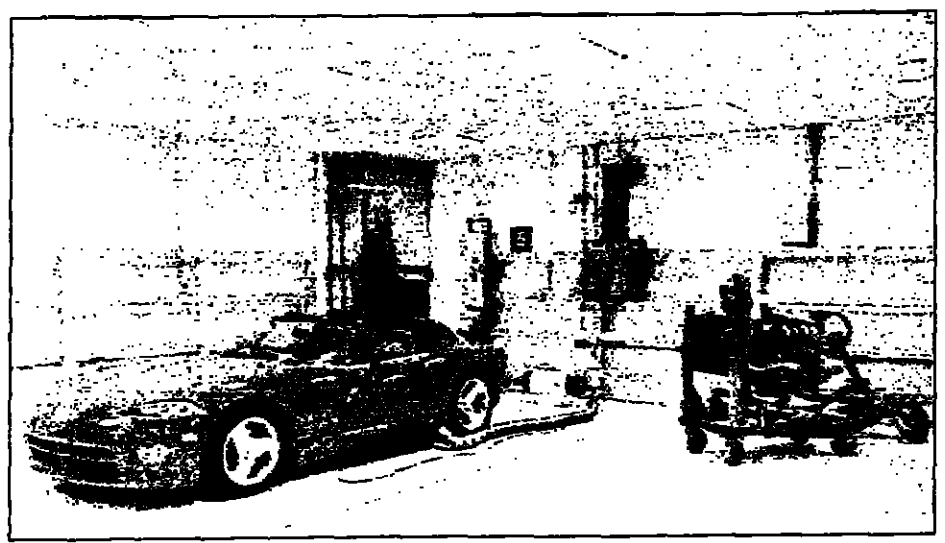
sees vehicles driven from scorched earth to the Arctic wastes — in seconds

From Arizona to Alaska in a couple of seconds is all it takes to put cars to the ultimate weather test.

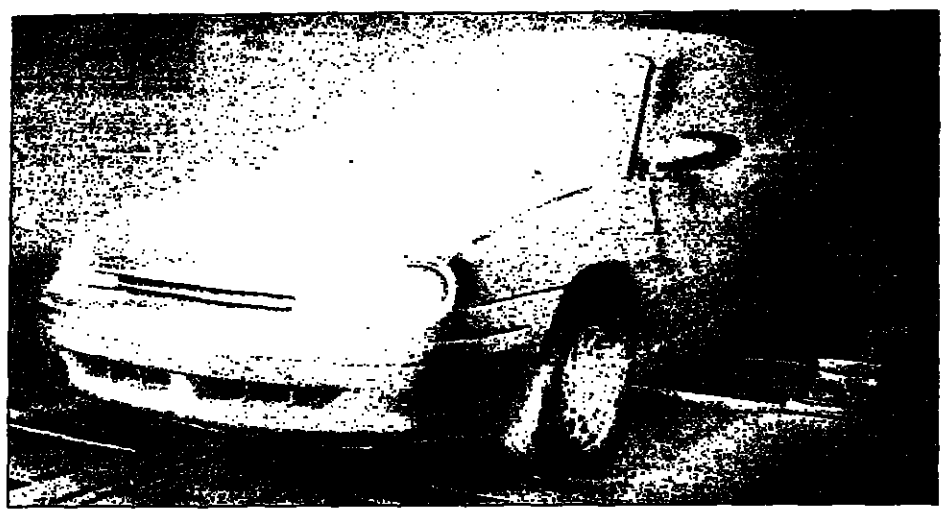
Carmakers need to find out quickly how their cars will react to the most chilling and the stickiest climates — but without spending millions on shipping cars around the globe seeking out extremes.

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, engineers can turn down the thermostat to recreate a mind-numbing -30F or turn it up to an uncomfortably clammy 110F in a new £100 million climatic test laboratory.

Technicians can draw on 50,000 watts of solar energy to recreate Arizona, with the temperature inside a Chrysler Neon on test climbing towards 140F — the sort of temperature that can melt plastic.



From one extreme to the other: two Neons are put through simulated desert and blizzard conditions at Chrysler's climatic test laboratory in Michigan



Only feet away, in a separate cell, another Neon is put through a simulated blizzard in Alaska in mid-January, with snow falling at two inches an hour in 38mph winds.

Driven by a robot on a rolling road at up to 90mph, the Neon is wired to a computer while fibre-optic cameras record reactions in the air ducts and throttle.

Technicians can even tinker with the humidity and altitude up to 12,000ft, which can play a big part in the performance of a car, which needs to breathe just like its human occupants — although technicians have to enter and leave the altitude chamber through a series of air locks.

The tests are not only to discover how well the car stands up to extremes of temperature, but also to check how vital equipment, such as windscreen wipers, defrosters and air conditioning, will cope in climatic extremes.

"The laboratory allows us to develop the car when we're ready and not have to wait for nature," says Duane Morey, head of the laboratory. "You can go testing in Alaska for a week and only get the right combination of snow and wind on one day, if at all."

The same tests can be repeated over and over again so the engineers, sitting two floors above the laboratory in Chrysler's technical centre, can examine with unerring accuracy the changes they make to designs or materials.

What used to involve a two-week driving exercise through the Colorado mountains can now be completed in around four days, and repeated whenever necessary.

The altitude chamber, along with two fully-equipped emission test cells, will also be used to develop the low emission vehicles of the late 1990s, which require advanced analysers to gauge minuscule exhaust emissions.

Bernard Robertson, vice-president of Chrysler's engineering technologies, says: "The advantage is having all these capabilities under one roof, just minutes away from the engineers who are developing the product."

A ballerina tells Andrew Pierce about her pas de deux with a topless model

Sporty little number suits dancer's quickstep routine

Deborah Bull, principal dancer at the Royal Ballet, has a starring role in *Steptext* at Covent Garden. It is written by William Forsythe, one of Britain's foremost choreographers. The award-winning dancer has been with the company since 1981. She is one of the most popular resident artistes at Covent Garden. Her latest production opened on Thursday.

How did you first learn to drive?

I learnt twice. Once a week was a waste of money because I forgot everything I had been taught. I then did a two-week intensive course with BSM. My teacher had a bizarre but ultimately successful method. He clipped his fingernails and tossed them out of the window. He was also a mean fiend with earbuds. It was a successful strategy. I developed cast iron concentration. I was so appalled by the ritual that my eyes never wavered from the road.

What was your first car?

A big old Cortina. Then I reverted to the womb. I bought a Mini Metro, which I had learned in. I loved it but traded it after a while because when you have given up the L-plates, you want a bit more power.

What car do you drive now and why?

A Mazda MX-5. I had been content with the Metro for four years until I saw an article on the new ragtop prototype of the MX-5. It was not coming out for a year but I was smitten and put down a £100 deposit. The car arrived on my birthday from the very first shipment.

What is your dream car?

Any old car with classic styling but it must have a new engine. I cannot bear cars which do not start every morning. Failing that, the Porsche 356 or the Aston Martin DB6.

What is your most hated car?

All modern cars which look like soapboxes.

What is your worst habit in the car?

I always assume I haven't left enough time to get to my destination. I zip round the lanes and pull out in front of other cars when I don't always need to. I've learnt my lesson. A policeman stopped me, after a particularly fraught journey, and said: "Are you going to do this red light like the last one?"

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they, the men that is, hide behind their windscreen and utter profanities which they would not dream of saying to my face. If they took the time to find out they would know that I am not a silly cow or a silly bitch. I am quite nice really.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

The MX-5 does not have an internal boot release. You can only open it with the keys. Guess where they were? Locked in the boot. I had to chisel in through a hatch behind the seat, otherwise known as the fuel pipe, to prise a new MaxMara coat through the hole. The keys were in the pocket. It took six hours to break in. Neither the coat nor the car has ever been the same since.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

No — not yet.

What do you listen to in the car?

Radio 4. If I finish rehearsals by 6pm I can catch just a minute of the news, which is more than enough, then I can relax and listen to shows such as *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*, which, from the little bit I heard of the news, accurately sums up most of what I have heard about the Government.

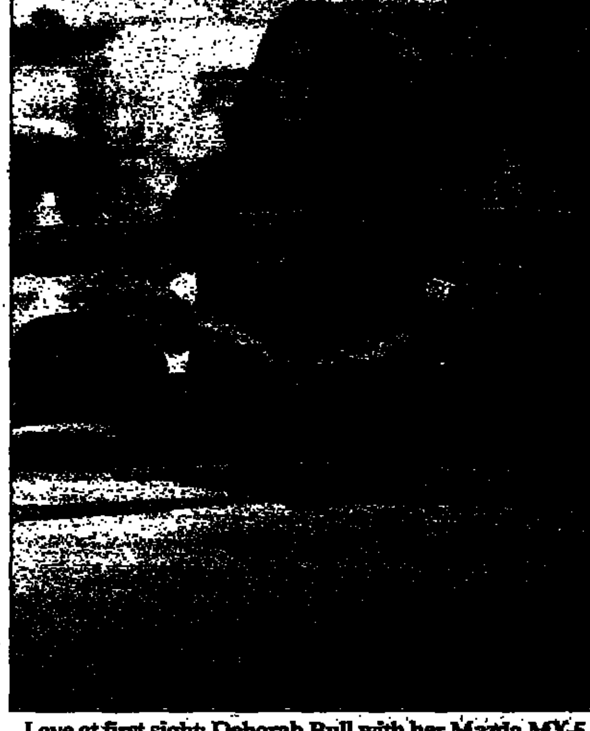
If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

I am all in favour of more people cycling. But I would make cyclists conform to the same rules as car users. They would be obliged to have insurance, not go through red lights, or the wrong way up one-way streets. I might let them off the road tax.

What is your most hated car advertisement?

The one with the supermodels. It must have cost a fortune because those women don't get out of bed for anything less. The advertisement was bland, boring and I haven't got a clue what car they were advertising. But they all looked very nice.

JAMES MORGAN



Love at first sight: Deborah Bull with her Mazda MX-5

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Tony Dawe reports on an alarming new motorway menace — unqualified 'do-gooders' administering medical aid at accident scenes

Drivers warned of bogus medics

Dangerous cargo: PC Chambers with some of the 130 medical items carried by Corney in his car, which had a flashing light and was marked "paramedic"

Police and ambulance chiefs are warning motorists of a new hazard on Britain's busiest motorways and trunk roads: bogus paramedics who turn up at accidents offering help which is often misguided and sometimes dangerous.

The genuine emergency services are reporting an increasing number of cases of fake medics, inspired by television programmes such as the BBC's *Casualty*, cruising the motorways with scanning devices to pick up radio messages about crashes. Once on the scene, they inject victims and insert drips, even though people are not seriously hurt.

Essex Ambulance Service reports that a phoney paramedic inserted a cannula — a thin tube — into a victim's arm after an accident on the M11 and put him on a drip. The bogus medic disappeared when the real ambulancemen arrived but the job was done so well they were convinced the man was an off-duty hospital theatre technician.

The only problem with the treatment was that the victim did not need it. He was allowed home after a hospital check-up — with an unnecessary hole in his arm.

London Ambulance Service has prepared a report for the Crown Prosecution Service after a disturbing case on the M25 and says it has another 20 on its files.

Scotland Yard has warned traffic officers to be on the alert for the fakers.

In the first court case involving a bogus paramedic last month, Paul Corney, an agency nurse of Langley, Berkshire, admitted illegally administering a prescribed drug to a crash victim on the M40 as she lay unconscious. He was sentenced to 80 hours community service and two years probation for giving the treatment, which could have caused a fatal allergic reaction.

Bogus: Paul Corney

His Triumph Dolomite, equipped with a flashing blue light and a "paramedic" sign in the window, was found to contain 130 medical items, including bloodstained surgical clamps, ampoules of sodium chloride and out-of-date bottles of plasma.

"We were suspicious about him despite his 'paramedic' signs," said PC Neil Chambers, who arrested Corney. "What he was doing was very worrying".

Phil Saunders, director of ambulance services for south London, said: "These cases are becoming more of a problem and the public must be warned. You can don a green jacket bought from a safety company, put the word 'paramedic' on it, buy an old ambulance and flashing light and people will think you are the ambulance service. You are not even committing an offence unless you put needles into somebody or give them drugs.

"The only people qualified to do that are doctors, registered nurses in intensive care or paramedics who have undergone a three-year NHS-approved training programme".

Ambulance chiefs have raised the issue with the Department of Health. "We need new legislation with some teeth so the public can be assured this is not going to happen to them," said Gron Roberts, chief executive of the Essex service. "It is an offence to impersonate a police officer or a doctor and it's about time it became illegal to impersonate a paramedic".

The Health Department is currently examining the role of private ambulance services but has no plans to introduce the legislation which is being demanded, and appears content with existing powers which allow police to charge an unqualified person administering invasive therapy with common assault.

Ambulance chiefs advise people at the scene of accidents to look for the laurel wreath badge with the crown above it worn by genuine paramedics and carried on the side of their ambulances. "If the medics are not displaying the badge or an identity card, don't let them near the victim," said Mr Saunders.

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A close call at Lisbon but we're all off to Brazil

IN THE first of his special reports on the 25th anniversary London-Mexico Rally, Roy Dixon, co-driving with Tony Fall in a Volvo 142S, reports on an eventful first week from London to Lisbon.

All 59 competitors are ready to go to Brazil. They are waiting to board the two giant Russian Antonov aircraft bound overnight from Lisbon to São Paulo for the long haul up into the Andes. But problems are starting after only the end of week one. Three cars made final control in Lisbon with just twenty minutes to spare.

David Hall, the British Airways 747 captain driving a Volvo PV 544, had to finish the last stage in second after his gear-lever came off in his hand at the start. Bill Ainscough, in his 65-year-old Chrysler 77, finished all the stages today with his wife Eileen covering her eyes and swearing she would never have come on the event if she had known there were going to be such huge drops round every corner.

The battle between five-times British rally champion Roger Clark, in his Ford Escort, and his son Matt, who is co-driving Max Harvey in a second Escort, continues with Roger winning and now leading Matt by 41 seconds. They are placed third and fifth respectively but nothing could compare with Matt's excitement when he told his father he was the fastest on Wednesday's stage in pouring rain and thick fog.

The rally is great fun. The stages to date have covered every aspect of the sport from fast tarmac to deep mud, from sunshine to snow. Tony Fall and I are beginning to gel as a team, and Tony is going faster with every stage. He hadn't been on the dreaded Arganil stages, on the twisting mountain roads of Portugal, for more than 20 years.

We are now lying in tenth position and our only problem is defective bushes on the rear shock absorbers, but we are searching for them everywhere — including the doorsteps in our hotel.

Angus Leckie, from East Africa, nearly didn't make the start. The shipping line which gave his Peugot 504 a free passage from Mombasa to Felixstowe forgot to unload the car and it ended up in dry dock in Holland.

The AA crews accompanying the rally have been kept busy as minor problems confront them, ranging from broken gear levers to windscreen wipers and defective horns. There has only been one fairly serious accident. Fortunately nobody was hurt and the BMW of Ian James and Dick French, although damaged, has been repaired sufficiently to continue. Howard Patterson and Ian North, carrying the kitchen sink on the roof of their Volvo Amazon as they did on the London-Sydney rally, are claiming they have not knocked it off but have removed it for transportation to Brazil.

Tony Fall: getting faster with every stage

The big debate among all the crews is the question of oxygen, which will be a considerable problem when we arrive at La Paz, capital of Bolivia, at 12,500 feet. The following six days will all be spent above this height. Many of the crews are in their early sixties and the last time they were in the Andes they were 25 years younger. This debate will no doubt continue until we reach the Bolivian capital.

Drivers dig deep to foot tax bill

MOTORISTS paid around £24 billion in taxes last year, more than 11 per cent of all the income taken by the Inland Revenue.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders says that fuel duty alone contributed £12.2 billion to the nation's coffers with the next biggest take from value-added tax, which was worth £6.8 billion.

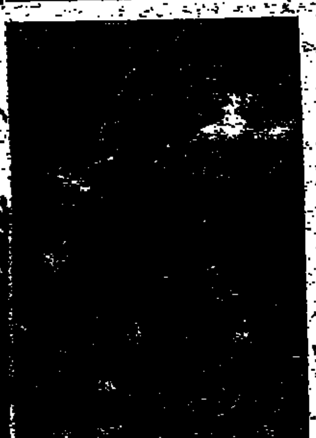
Road tax yielded £3.5 billion while company car drivers paid £1.4 billion to the Revenue in benefit-in-kind taxation, an average of about £1,100 a driver during the 1993/94 tax year.

The welter of statistics is contained in the society's latest fact sheet, which also shows that the motor industry was Britain's biggest export earner with more than £11 billion worth of cars, lorries and components sold abroad.

Foreign motorists bought £4.5 billion worth of cars but just as important were the unseen bits and pieces under the bonnet. Components were worth £4.8 billion to the nation's balance of payments.

هكذا من الأصل

GARDENING



How to blanket bare beds in glorious foliage

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PLUS: Pick of spring gardens to visit, page 9

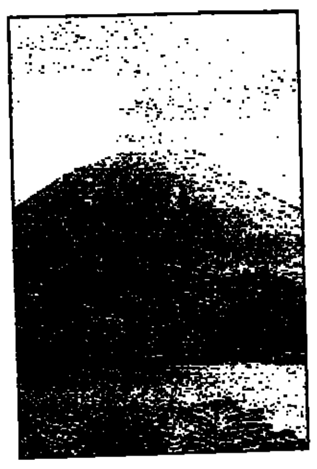
BOOKS

Douglas Hurd on the new le Carré spy thriller

Page 13

PLUS: Valerie Grove on the family, page 12

TRAVEL



Delights beyond the beaches of the Canaries

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PLUS: Winning day out at Newmarket, page 21

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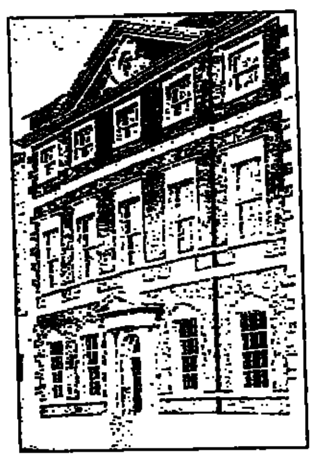

Collect your passport to the treasures of Britain

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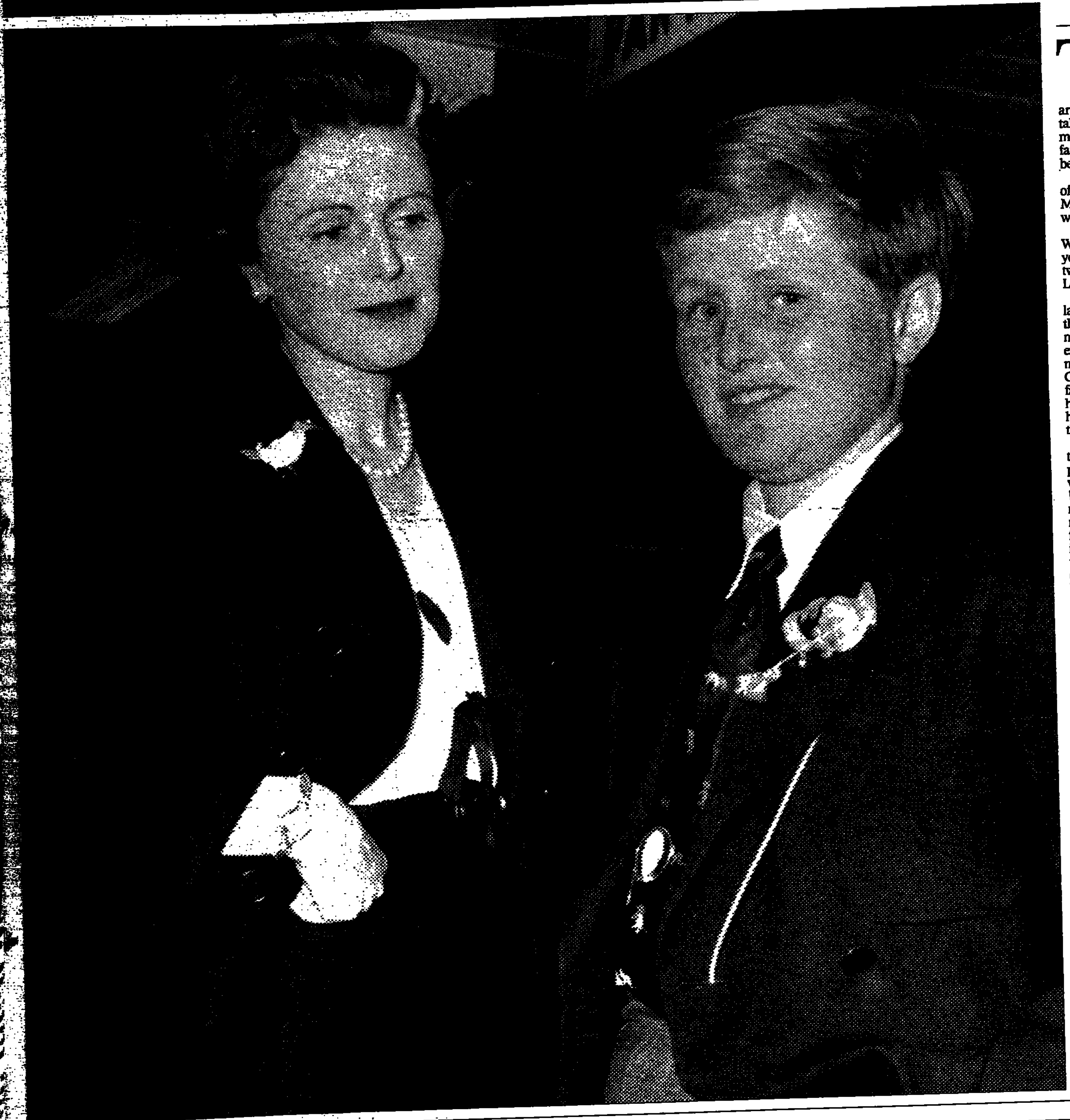
PLUS: £5 off the new Sister George, page 6

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 29 1995

THE POOR YOUNG WINSTON



By Ben Macintyre

The purchase of Sir Winston Churchill's papers with £12.5 million from the National Lottery has secured for a grateful nation one of Britain's most important historical archives; or, if you prefer, the Lottery has taken the hard-earned money of working men and women and handed it over to a family which merely had the good fortune to be blessed with a famous name.

Either way, Winston Churchill, grandson of the great wartime leader and Conservative MP for Davyhulme, has won the lottery without buying a ticket.

One consequence of this is that "Young Winston", as he is still widely known at 54 years old, has simultaneously managed to lift two burdens from his back: one is Lloyd's of London and the other may be his mother.

It is one of the stranger coincidences in the latest episode in the Churchill family saga that at the precise moment Mr Churchill has moved from (distinctly relative) poverty to extreme wealth, Pamela Churchill Harriman, the US ambassador to France and Grande Dame of the Democratic Party, is facing the dismal prospect of having to sell her artworks to keep afloat financially, having once been one of the richest women on the planet.

To anyone standing in line for a lottery ticket, the Churchills' notions of riches and privation may seem bizarre. Mr Churchill, who lists "country pursuits" as his pastime in *Who's Who*, was rich enough to be a Lloyd's name in the first place. His 74-year-old mother, who inherited £100 million in 1986 from her third husband, Averell Harriman, is now being sued in the American courts by the Harriman heirs, who claim she squandered millions of dollars on bad investments, but she still retains a Van Gogh, a Renoir, a Picasso, a house in Washington and an estate in Virginia.

Yet the radical change in the relative fortunes of mother and son may cast an altogether new light on a relationship that has never been easy. The only product of Mrs Harriman's first marriage to Sir Winston's scapegrace son Randolph, Winston Spencer Churchill has long chafed at his mother's financial and emotional control over him, according to the incendiary biography of America's most acclaimed "saloniste", Christopher Ogden's *Life of the Party*.

Mrs Harriman's relationship with her son, as depicted by Ogden, has rested more on mutual benefit than affection: the Churchill name provided Mrs Harriman with instant and permanent access to the European élite; she provided the strapped Tory MP with money, but as a mother was allegedly "all but non-existent" while her son was growing up.

"It was Young Winston who was her connection to Old Winston, and then to the high and mighty ... without her son she would have no claim to being a Churchill," Ogden writes, pointing out that she still retains the famous name despite her divorce from the alcoholic, if glamorous, Randolph, in 1945.

"She has traded on the name since 1939," her biographer observes pungently.

In return, he claims, in her relations with her son Mrs Harriman never "let him forget"

Continued on Page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

An evening show or a family day out? *The Times* critics choose the best of entertainment

DANCE

John Percival

MONTE CARLO BALLET: A celebrated old name for a vigorous young company, making its British debut. Under Jean-Cristophe Maillot's direction, the policy is to combine free artistic strands. Michel Fokine's *Scheherazade*, a drama of lust and death to Rimsky-Korsakoff's music in Bakst's famous exotic setting, represents the company's historic origins in the Diaghilev Ballet. The century's greatest choreographer, George Balanchine (another Diaghilev discovery who began his western career at Monte Carlo) is seen in light-hearted mood on his Gershwin ballet, *Who Cares?* On Tuesday and Friday these are shown together with Maillot's new *Dov'e la Luna*, and next Saturday with another Balanchine masterwork, *Four Temperaments*. If you want to concentrate on Monte Carlo's modern, creative side, Wednesday and Thursday bring Maillot's ambitious, evening-long *Home Sweet Home*, which stretches the 30 excellent dancers in varied, dramatic although enigmatic contrasts.
Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1 (0171 713 6000). Tuesday to Friday at 7.30pm, Saturday next at 2.30 and 7.30.

MATTHEW HAWKINS: One of Britain's most imaginative and individual choreographers, having paid homage lately to Tchaikovsky, now turns to salute England's greatest composer in *Great Moments of Purcell — and Blow.* Expect invention, understanding and a hint of irreverance, too. His six-strong Fresh Dances Group includes the sprightly octogenarian Diana Payne Myers, along with others whose combined ages scarcely add up to hers.
Hackney Empire, Mare Street, London, E8 (0181-985 2424). Thursday to Saturday, 8pm.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

EXOTICA (18): Atom Egoyan, Canada's answer to David Lynch, makes his best bid yet for wider acceptance with a plush and inventive set of variations on his pet theme: voyeurism. In a nightclub plastered with jungle foliage, gentlemen sit lost in fantasy while scantily clad women dance on tables. All characters are fuelled by desires and crippled by loss, although their movement through the jigsaw-puzzle plot matters less than the overall mood. Funny, audacious, often beautiful. With Bruce Greenwood, Mia Kirshner and Elias Koteas.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

Mia Kirshner in *Exotica*

BEFORE SUNRISE (15): Risky to attempt a mainstream film with a cast of two walking and talking, but Richard Linklater almost meets the challenge in this lovely chamber piece set in Vienna. A wandering American (Ethan Hawke) meets a French student (Julie Delpy) and they explore the city and each other. Nothing in Linklater's past (*Slacker, Dazed and Confused*) suggested he could delve deep into characters and make them more than mouthpieces for off-beat remarks. Yet, helped by Hawke and Delpy's natural performances, he does so with ease, crafting a film as humane and tender as they come.
Odeon West End (01426-915 574)

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

KING ARTHUR: Thanks to the generous subsidy of the Châtelet, Paris's municipal opera house, Covent Garden can share one of the Purcell tercentenary's most spectacular events: Graham Vick's lavish, glitzily theatrical staging of Dryden's tongue-in-cheek patriotic play of 1691 with Purcell's glorious musical episodes. The huge cast of singers, dancers and actors fly, swim, cavort and orate with boundless energy and wit, and both Vick's direction and William Christie's sparky conducting of his Arts Florissants chorus and orchestra ensure that the four hours and more speed by in what seems like half that time. Paris enjoyed eight sold-out performances: London can afford only three on successive evenings, so move fast. You will never see its like again.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000).
Wed 3, Thur 4, Fri 5, 6.30pm. ♿

COSI FAN TUTTE: The experienced Rita Cullis and bright newcomer Sara Fulgoni as the sisters; fine new American tenor Charles Workman and promising British baritone Peter Snipp as the officers; drily witty Sally Harrison and sardonic Roger Bryson as the plotters — the cast of Nicolette Molnar's pacey 1950s production is a good youthful mix, and Nicholas Kok controls all from the pit with the liveliest of batons. A joyous evening out.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, Covent Garden London WC2 (0171-632 8300). Tues 2, 7pm. ♿

HELMUT NEWTON/HAMILTONS

Gaetan Morlotti and Bernice Coppieters of the vigorous and young Monte Carlo Ballet

JAZZ

Clive Davis

HERB ELLIS: Audiences are probably most familiar with Herb Ellis as Oscar Peterson's astute guitar sidekick. He first joined the pianist's trio in the early Fifties, and was back in the line-up for some of the more recent tours and recordings. Ellis's low-key improvising usually responds best to the promptings of another soloist: he will have as a stylish foil tonight and tomorrow swing tenor saxophonist Scott Hamilton, signing off after an extended visit to this country. Ellis leads a trio on Monday before linking with the promising tenor player Dave O'Higgins on Tuesday. Next Sunday and Monday he will be accompanied by Claire Martin, a vocal star in the making.
Pizza Express, Dean St, London W1 (0171 439 8722) tonight to Tues 2, Sun 7 to Tue 9. Doors open 7.45pm.

MACEO PARKER: The next best thing to catching James Brown in concert is hearing the wondrous funk band led by his former employee Maceo Parker. In fact, the saxophonist's Parker's shows tend to be more spontaneous than anything the master has come up with in his autumn years. With trombonist Fred Wesley and tenor man Pee Wee Ellis, Parker's new album *Soundtrack* packs heavyweight versions of *Knock On Wood* and Herbie Hancock's marathon vamp *Chameleon*.
Blackheath Concert Halls, Lee Road, London SE3 (0181-463 0100) tomorrow, 8pm.

In a place of bleakness and beauty. **Ruth Gledhill** finds an inspiring retreat

AT YOUR SERVICE

FEW travellers along the road from Lynton who pass by the rock formation known as the Devil's Cheesewring, to enter the 280-acre grounds of Lee Abbey, can escape the thrill of pleasure mixed with terror that accompanies a landscape both bleak and beautiful. Lee Abbey, which includes Lee Bay, a much-visited beauty spot, was the home of Baron de Winchehalse in *Lorna Doone*, but only fragments of that house remain. Arriving at the Victorian manor in the pink glow of early evening sunset, I wandered along the first available path to find myself gazing down over the vertiginous Jennefried's Leap, from where the manor's heiress in the reign of Charles I leapt on her wedding day when she learnt her lover had wed another.

Lee Abbey's bold approach to music, drama and liturgy has given it an unfair reputation in the wider church as something of a "happy-clappy hotel". Retreats, known as "house parties", can consist of talks, worship and silence. The abbey provides almost the closest thing to the monastic religious life that it is possible for a mixed group of lay people to experience. Of about 70 community members, most are temporary but a few, such as the warden, are permanent. Retreats this summer and autumn will cover subjects such as one-parent families, divorce and music.

Most of the other retreatants were Anglican clergy, recovering from Easter, so at breakfast I was surprised to find myself seated next to a builder, who was a regular visitor. "This is the closest thing to heaven on earth," he said. "I'm an oddball here because I'm not a vicar. But my wife is."

Each guest is prayed for by a member of the community. Worship each morning was led by a young member of the community. There were workshops, including one on prayer from Sister Carol, an Anglican nun, soon to leave the community to live in a hermitage for a few months. We could join folk dancing, walks, prayers and worship. There was the luxury of a talk from the charismatic David Ford, Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge University, on "Who is Jesus Christ for us today?" He referred to the writings of Dietrich Boenhoffer, the Lutheran theologian executed for his part in a plot to kill Hitler and recently republished in the Fount Classics imprint. "Look at the industry of scholarshop that surrounds the historical Jesus, the vast amounts of speculations," he said. "There are thousands of pounds to be made from this. If one were to take seriously every new book that comes out about Jesus, your faith would be blown about by the wind of media speculation.

"The gospels are testimony. Because we cannot re-run historical events, you either have to trust or not trust some of the people who were there. It is important that we as Christians are part of a community that did decide early on to trust certain testimonies. That does not rule them out from cross-examination. But we can be absolutely confident that in terms of the testimony of Jesus, there is no disproof of the main thrust of that testimony...

"Jesus went to his death knowingly. Christians need to enter into this sense of having an unrepressed sense of death. It is only if you have this unrepressed sense of death that you find yourself able to have a fully joyful, vibrant sense of life. Death is not the worst thing that can happen to us. In the light of the Last Supper, it seems to me that we learn to live in the face of death and of evil. The only person I know who has claimed to have a vision of the risen Jesus is not a Christian. She does not believe it."

Lee Abbey grew out of a desire for community living in a society where more and more people lack experience of close family relationships and where loneliness is acknowledged as "a major problem", according to *Growing in Faith: The Lee Abbey Story* by Richard More (Hodder & Stoughton 1982). Community members can be single or married. Often they are students taking a year out before university, or divorced and single people on a career break. They work long hours six days a week, cleaning, cooking, doing maintenance, leading retreats and helping with worship. Everything is done around a programme of prayer.

Leaving sadly for the long drive home, I was intercepted by Sister Carol, who offered solace in the form of tea and cake.

Lee Abbey, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, was bought for £28,000 by a trust founded by an Anglican clergyman, Roger de Pemberton, after the then Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, commissioned a report *Towards the Conversion of England*. The report, published after the Second World War, analysed "a wholesale drift from organised religion" and called for clergy and laity to be trained for evangelism. With most retreats fully booked well in advance, I could only conclude that the need for such a place remains as great today as it was then.

TIM CUFF

Professor David Ford addresses retreatants at Lee Abbey

THE LEE ABBEY FELLOWSHIP, Lee Abbey, Lynton, North Devon (01598 752621)

WARDEN: The Rev Robert Payne

ARCHITECTURE: Spectacular manor house including stone follies, converted to hotel in 1919, used as a school for evacuees during World War Two and bought after the war become a Christian holiday-conference centre. ★★★★

SERMON: In a sunlit octagonal room, Professor Ford said: "What forms our identity most fundamentally as Christians is that the light of the glory of the face of God is shining in our hearts." ★★★★★

MUSIC & LITURGY: Enjoyably modern and evangelical. ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Excellent home-cooked food, not recommended for dieters. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Like the area, rocky in parts, emotional turbulence interspersed with calm. ★★★

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

BRIGHTON FESTIVAL: A stunning musical programme, craftily concealed in a brochure that renders quick-reference about as easy as eating treacle through a straw. Ah well, they are clever folk in Sussex, so I hope that they stumble across what should be a magnificient opening event: the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra joining the Brighton Festival Chorus for Britten's War Requiem in the Dome on Friday. The American conductor Steven Sloane directs. After that, there are concerts by orchestras from Budapest and Tokyo, as well as new music and some fine chamber recitals.
Brighton Festival (booking and details: 01273 709709), May 5-28

SOLTI RETURNS: Two rival orchestras — the London Philharmonic and the Royal Philharmonic — come together under Sir Georg Solti's baton to play a gala concert in aid of their respective benevolent funds. A cause well worth supporting, and the music-making should be epic, too. In a recent book, *The Orchestra*, several LPO members had unkind things to say about Solti, but I am sure that there will be nothing but professional smiles on the night. Beethoven's Seventh Symphony and Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra are on the agenda.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Tues 7.30pm

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

A TEENAGER'S WAR 1941-45: The painter-designer Frederick Carabott had an unusually eventful adolescence: living in Crete with his family when the Germans invaded in 1941, he became involved with the Resistance, was arrested and transported to a PoW camp in Germany and liberated in 1945. Recently, he has been painting a series inspired by these experiences: 56 works in acrylic on paper, painted over the past four years, chronicle the whole episode in symbolic terms, with the painter as a white figure and the Germans abstracted into faceless automata. An interesting choice for the National Army Museum's major marking of 50 years from VE-Day.
National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 (0171-730 0717) daily Sept 10, 10am-5.30pm.

PHILIP JACKSON: For the duration of this year's Jersey Arts Festival, the 50-year-old British sculptor seems to be taking over large parts of the island to prepare for the unveiling on May 9 of his *Jersey Liberation Sculpture*, commissioned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the liberation. Lately, Jackson has been known mostly for his extraordinary, sinister Mask Series of life-size bronzes based on the Venetian *maschera nobile*. A group of these will be shown in the Royal Bank of Scotland; other sculptures will be scattered around St Helier as addenda to the major retrospective at Jersey Museum.
Jersey Museum, Weighbridge, St Helier, Jersey (01534 30511) daily 10am-5pm, until June 2.

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

BRANCUSI AND CHAGALL: A spring trip to Paris yields two exceptional shows. Brancusi, one of the greatest modern sculptors, is displayed at full strength in a grand retrospective. Most of his finest carvings, bronzes and drawings are assembled here, revealing the single-minded intensity of a man bent on purging and simplifying to the limit. Brancusi was after the essence of things, and he found it in the gleaming poise of his *Bird in Flight* as much as in the rough-hewn intimacy of *The Kiss*. Chagall, in his early Russian years, could hardly be more different. He is the boisterous Jewish storyteller, and during this period (1907-1922), he was at his inventive best. Early exposure to Paris stimulated him hugely, but Chagall always drew on childhood memories and flourished in Russia at the time of the Bolshevik revolution. Both exhibitions are essential viewing for anyone interested in 20th-century art at its most vital.
Pompidou Centre (00331 44 78 12 33) until Aug 21; **Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris**, (00331 47 23 61 27) until Sept 17.

RICHARD AVEDON: Photography rules at the National Portrait Gallery, where the long and distinguished career of a leading American lensman is surveyed with panache. Avedon's early reputation was established above all through fashion shots for *Harper's Bazaar*, and they retain their witty, stylish aplomb. But there is a colder side to his work, and it emerges in the monumental portrait heads. Ranging from Monroe to Beckett, with a chapel-like space devoted to his own father, Avedon trains his camera on human flesh with icy clarity. The exposure of every sag and blemish looks chilling at times, but his relentless rigour is bracing.
National Portrait Gallery (0171-306 0055) until June 11.

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Benedict Nightingale

THE MILL ON THE FLOSS: Three Maggie Tullivers sounds a bit of a crowd, but the seemingly eccentric split allows adaptor Helen Edmundson to explore the confusions of George Eliot's heroine as she conscientiously copes with a heavy father, a repressive brother and two would-be lovers. Altogether, Shared Experience's production is a delight, imaginatively bold and dramatically riveting.
Lyric, Hammersmith (0181-741 2311). Evenings, Mon to Sat at 7.30pm; matinees, Sat at 2.30pm and Wed at 1.30 pm.

TWELFTH NIGHT: Ian Judge has been accused of specialising in feel-good Shakespeare — but is that such a crime when the result is a warm, humane revival that actually does lift the heart and mind? There have been harder, harsher *Twelfth Nights*, but, with Emma Fielding as a tiny, touching Viola and Desmond Barrit as a Malvolio with a face like a hippo high on battery acid, seldom such enjoyable ones.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 6363). Evenings, Mon May 1 to Thurs May 4 at 7.15 pm; matinee, Thurs May 4 at 2.00 pm. Continues in repertory.

ROCK

David Sinclair

MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER: One of the new breed of country crossover stars, she is a writer-performer with a wide brief who is more likely to be bracketed with roots-rock acts such as John Hiatt than with Nashville products.
Manchester Apollo (0161 242 2560), May 2; **Hexagon**, Reading (01734 591 591), May 4; **Hammersmith Apollo**, London W6 (0171-741 4868), May 5, 6; **Corn Exchange**, Cambridge (01223 357 851), May 9; **Barbican**, York (01904 656 688), May 11; **Birmingham Symphony Hall** (0121-212 333), May 12; **Royal Concert Hall**, Glasgow (0141-227 5511), May 13 & 14; **Dome**, Brighton (01273 709 709), May 16; **St David's**, Cardiff (01222 371 236), May 17.

THE MAVERICKS: Sounding like Dwight Yoakam as much as anyone on their third album, *What A Crying Shame*, the Mavericks cut their teeth on the modern rock bar-band circuit of Miami. The result is an outfit schooled in the finer nuances of melody, yet able to inject touches of Tex-Mex and Memphis blues. These British dates are long-awaited.
Pavilion, Glasgow (0141-332 1846), April 30; Manchester University (0161-275 2930), May 3; **Shepherd's Bush Empire**, London W12 (0181-740 777474), May 4.

CHILDREN

LONDON

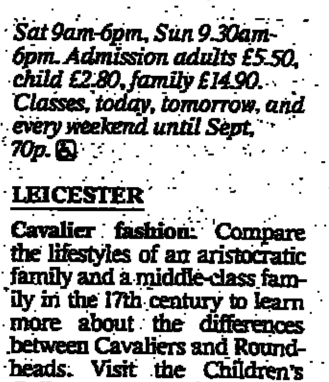
Festival of Theatre for Children and Young People: Four days of exciting and entertaining theatre for audiences aged from three to 21. See shadow puppetry, dance, clowning and live theatre. On Wednesday and Thursday, Arc Theatre present *Kicking Out*, a play about prejudice on the football terraces.
Oval House, Kennington Oval, SE11 (0171-240 8486). Wed to next Sat, various times. Tickets from £2. ♿
The Elves and the Shoemaker: Little Angel Theatre presents the Brothers Grimm story of the old shoemaker. Puppets and live music.
Tricycle Theatre, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Today 11.30am and 2pm, £2.75 (50p off each ticket paid for in advance). Ages 3-8 years. ♿
Hands on London history: Handle mystery objects and find out about the past.
Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (0171-600 0807). Workshops tomorrow, 2pm and 3.15pm. Museum open Tues-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun 12-5.50pm. Admission (valid three months) adults £3.50, child £1.75, family £8.50. ♿

EAST SUSSEX

Bodiam Medieval Fair: Longbowmen, spinners, music and demonstrations.
Bodiam Castle, Bodiam, Robertsbridge (01580 830436). Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm. Admission to fair, adults £2, child £1; castle extra: adult £2.50, child £1.30. ♿

SCOTLAND

Sports stars: International footballers and qualified coaches, including Brian Irving, Jim Bett, and Brian Grant will teach children soccer skills.
Fyvie Castle, Fyvie, Turriff. Tel 01651 891266. Tomorrow, noon-5pm. No charge to grounds. Admission to castle, adults £3.50; child £1.80, open daily, 1.30pm-5pm. ♿
Animal handling: Close encounters with frogs, snakes, stick insects, hamsters and other animals.
Edinburgh Zoo, Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh (0131-334 9171). Zoo open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 9.30am-6pm. Admission adults £5.50, child £2.80, family £14.90. Classes, today, tomorrow, and every weekend until Sept, 70p. ♿



Ever tried to cuddle up to a frog?

LEICESTER

Cavalier fashion: Compare the lifestyles of an aristocratic family and a middle-class family in the 17th century to learn more about the differences between Cavaliers and Roundheads. Visit the Children's Gallery, and dress up.
Wygston's House, Museum of Costume, Applegate, Leicester (0116 247 3056). Open Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2pm-5.30pm. Admission Free. In a Cavalier Fashion *opens today.* ♿

TYNE & WEAR

Design works: Hands-on exhibition with models, puzzles and games for all the family to experiment and practise design techniques.
Laing Art Gallery, Higham Place, Newcastle (0191-232 6989). Open Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. Adults £1, child 50p, family £3. ♿

WALES

Secret gathering: An evening of music and drama presented by local youth clubs.
Wyeside Arts Centre, Castle Street, Builth Wells, Powys (01982 552555). Today, 8pm.

CUMBRIA

North Pennines Festival: Today have a go on a pottery wheel; tomorrow enjoy theatrical frivolities in Hamersterley Forest or face painting at Durham Dales Centre.
The festival runs to May 8.
● *Further details: Alston Tourist Information Centre (01434 381696).*

HEATHER ALSTON

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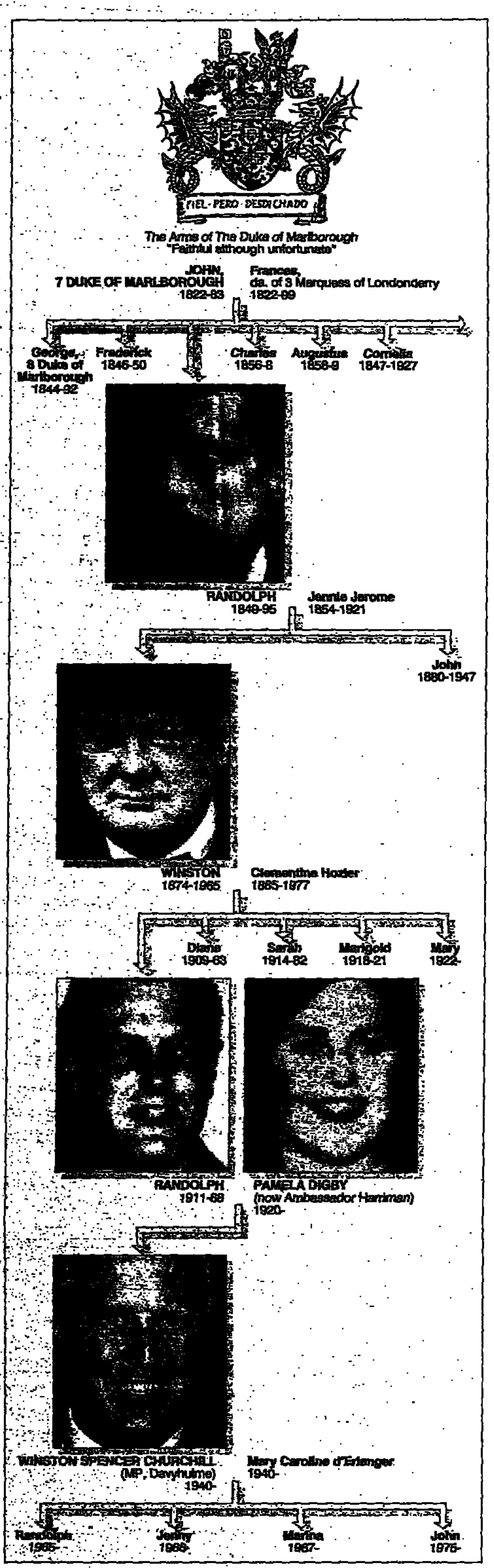
هكذا من الاصل

Above: Winston Churchill, MP, and his mother, Mrs Pamela Churchill Harriman

Left: The family wedding group after the young Winston Churchill's marriage to Minnie d'Erlanger at Kensington register office, west London, in 1964. The couple have now separated. The bride and groom are seated, centre, either side of Sir Winston Churchill. Mr Churchill's mother, *then Mrs Leyland Hayward, is in the* back row, *third from* right. *His father, Randolph, is* seated in the front row, second from left

Cover photograph of the young Winston Churchill and his mother, Pamela, by AP
Graphic by DAVID HART
Top photograph this page by DESMOND O'NEILL
Family group by CAMERA PRESS



The Arms of The Duke of Marlborough
"Faithful although unfortunate"

Continued from page 1

who wrote the cheques, by maintaining a "*strict financial hold*" over him.

She was remarkably generous to her four grandchildren, paying for their education and providing them each with cars and the maximum permitted tax-free gift of $10,000 a year, but Mr Churchill apparently remained "at Pamela's beck and call because of her firm grip on the family's pocketbook, *and the expectation that, eventually, he may inherit much of her* estate as long as he behaves".

Thanks to this week's windfall from the National Lottery, Mr Churchill no longer has to behave. But, then again, Mrs Harriman's purse strings are considerably shorter than they were.

Rumours that there might be financial problems with the Harriman estate — said to be worth $100 million — began to filter through New York society more than a year ago. But, in September last year, the feud between Mrs Harriman and the heirs of her husband, the former New York Governor, financier and *diplomat* Averell Harriman, became public. *Filing a lawsuit, his children claimed that $30 million in trust funds* has been frittered away *in risky investments,* leaving just $3 million.

Mrs Harriman and two other trustees of the fund are accused in the suit of being "faithless fiduciaries who betrayed a trust and squandered a family inheritance". The heirs have asked the courts to replace Mrs Harriman with an independent trustee, and want her to repay any losses.

Some investment decisions seemed odd — the suit claims that at least $21 million went into the Seasons Resort, a seedy conference centre and golf course in New Jersey, which was once a Playboy Club.

The heirs who are suing include Mr Harriman's daughters — Mary Fisk, 77, and Kathleen Harriman Mortimer, 76 — who were left only $4,000 each in the original will. *Curiously, Kathleen and Pamela were friends in their twenties in London during the war, when Kathleen helped to conceal the affair between her father and the then Pamela Churchill.*

Years later, in 1971, Pamela married Averell and became Kathleen's stepmother, by which time relations between the two women were cool. Mrs Mortimer confronted Mrs Harriman in Paris late in 1993 about the trust losses, hoping to avoid the public humiliation of legal action, but to no avail. Mrs Harriman said she was shocked to hear the trust had dwindled, but added that she had no idea why.

Last February, it became clear that Mrs Harriman was looking for a way to offset the losses when she sent a Picasso, a Renoir and a Matisse to Christie's for auction. *Picasso's Mere et Enfant is* expected to raise $10 *million at the sale on May 11 in New York.*

The male Churchills *never understood money, or learned how to* hang on to it. After marrying Pamela Digby at the outset of the war, Randolph Churchill headed for the Middle East with his Commando unit, leaving his wife and baby son in London, and promptly lost a fortune gambling on the troop ship before he ever reached his destination.

Lord Beaverbrook, Young Winston's godfather, bailed the family out, but it was a salutory lesson. Mr Churchill quotes his mother as saying: "I suddenly realised that if there was to be any security for the baby Winston and me, *it was going to be on our own.*" Or, *more precisely, her own, by means of a series of liasons with some of the* world's wealthiest men: Gianni Agnelli, Ali Khan, Eli de Rothschild and Harriman, to name but a few.

Quite how much money was nourishing the offshoots of the Churchill family tree has always been a matter of some mystery. Certainly Young Winston was never in a position merely to sit back and enjoy his country pursuits, particularly after the good Lloyd's years suddenly turned horrendous. Mr Churchill has denied sugges*tions that his Lloyd's losses are in* the region of £500,000.

He had *to make his* own way, despite periodic help from his mother and stepfather. In 1971, Averell Harriman gave Winston a twin-engined plane, which he used to run as an air taxi service from Gatwick for several years.

After leaving Oxford, Mr Churchill *joined The Times as* a foreign correspondent and became, according to Ogden, one of the best-paid *journalists on Fleet Street. After winning his seat in the Commons* in 1970, and with only an MP's salary, the money was tight.

His newly acquired wealth may also prove useful in any settlement that may arise following his recent separation from his wife of more than 30 years, Minnie d'Erlanger, granddaughter of the Anglo-French banker Baron Emile D'Erlanger.

Sir Winston's 82-year-old nephew, Peregrine Churchill, one of the trustees *of the new settlement,* has *pointed out that Mr Churchill's responsibilities* include *upkeep of* his illustrious grandfather's grave, "as well as other things".

Sir Winston was himself perennially short of cash and had to rely on the charity of friends to retain Chartwell, his house in Kent, after he ceased to be *Prime* Minister. Quite what he would have made of *his grandson's lottery-financed bonanza is de*batable, but *it may be surmised that he* would have wickedly enjoyed recent events. Even at his grandson's christening, he was heard to murmur wryly "poor infant, to be born into a world such as this".

> 'His newly acquired wealth may prove useful in any settlement that may arise following his separation from his wife'

If the Young Winston's relations with his mother have been strained, the same was true of Old Winston. The archive bought from the Churchills this week includes *personal letters showing that Lady Randolph Churchill was the equal of Pamela Harriman in maternal* acid. In one 12-page letter complaining of Winston's poor academic work and general failings, she told the future Prime Minister: "You take too much on yourself, young Man, & write in such a pompous style . . . I'm afraid you are becoming a prig."

The horrors of *Sir Winston's schooldays at Harrow are legendary, but his grandson's experience of Eton was hardly more pleasant.* As Mr Churchill wrote in his autobiography: "My trousers would unceremoniously be removed. They would take it in turns to hit me with rubber-soled slippers, yelling: 'Take this for being a shit! Take this for being a bastard! Take this for being Winston-bloody-*Churchill!*'"

Being the grandson of Winston-bloody-Churchill was hard enough, but being the son of Pamela-bloody-Harriman, much-married world-class socialite and Washington's Democratic kingmaker, was perhaps harder still. His autobiography mentions her just 18 times, and then only briefly.

Against the backdrop of such *tense familial and financial relations, the strange haggling that led up to the sale of the pre-1945* Churchill archive, known as the Chartwell Collection, may appear more explicable. It represents, in effect, the family's greatest asset, and Mr Churchill's best chance of financial liberty. Some of the capital from the trust is likely to be disbursed directly to the male Churchills, specifically Mr Churchill and his two sons, *Randolph, 30, and Jack, 20. The remainder from the £12.5 million will probably be reinvested for future generations of male Churchills.*

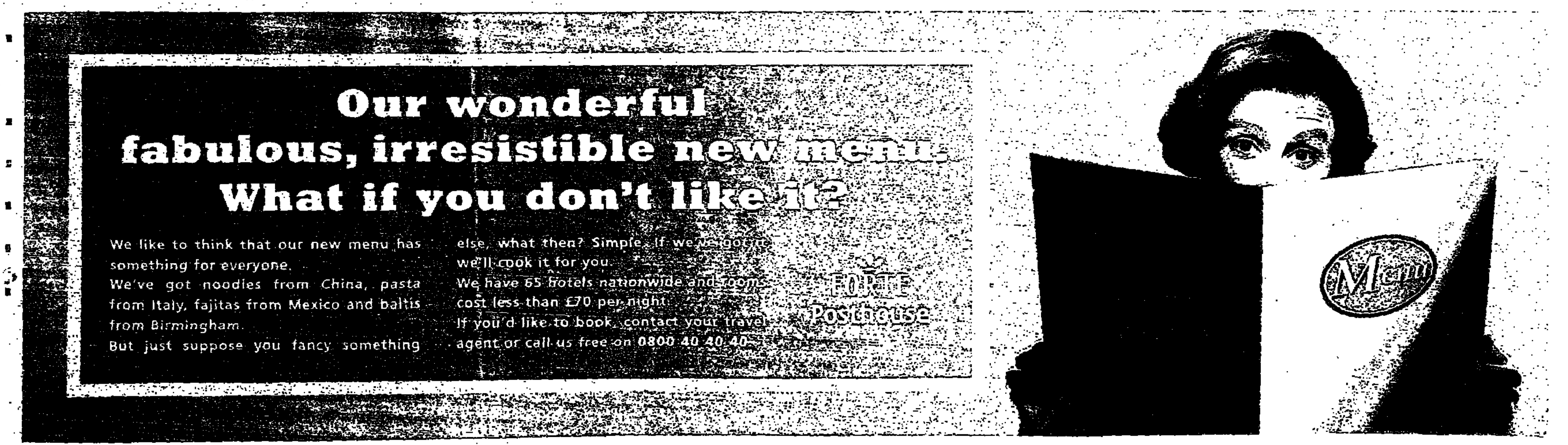
In 1992, the trust threatened to auction off parts of the collection, sending a thrill of acquisitiveness through wealthy American universities, and one of horror through Britain's historians. The Government insisted that state papers were the property of the state, and the Churchills realised the public condemnation that would result if Sir Winston's collection headed *across the Atlantic. Finally, in 1993, a deal was struck in principle that the Government would purchase* the collection through the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Then the bargaining began in earnest.

Mr Churchill said this week that the papers would have made £25 million on the open market. Sotheby's reportedly valued the collection of 1.5 million documents in 1,200 boxes at about £50 million.

Compared to what the family might have raised on the open *market, the final price-tag may be a bargain for retaining this historical jewel for the nation.* Certainly that is the view of Lord Rothschild, chairman of the trustees at the Heritage Lottery Fund, who has commended the Churchills' generosity in parting with the collection at a reduced price.

"It's surely in the same category of national importance for us as the Declaration of Independence for the people of the US," Lord Rothschild said. It was an apt choice of words, *for Mr Churchill's decision to part with the collection for enough money to ensure he need no* longer look to his mother's depleted resources, was perhaps a personal declaration of independence.

He can now raise two fingers in victory.



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Ton't 29 April 8.00pm	**PUCCINI GALA** London Concert Orch., Paul Wynne Griffiths cond., *Christine Teare, Clare Rutter, Julian Gavin, Adrian Martin* soloists, London Choral Society. Excerpts from *Madama Butterfly, La Bohème, Tosca, Manon Lescaut, Turandot* etc. £9.50 £14.50 £17.50 £19.50 £22.50 *Raymond Gubbay Ltd.*
Wed 3 May 7.30pm	**ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** Celebration of Isaac Stern's 75th Year. Isaac Stern violin/director Paul Barritt director* Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings Bach Violin Concerto in A minor Stravinsky Suite from Pulcinella* Mozart Violin Concerto No.3 in G £7.50 £10 £13 £17.50 £20 *Barbican Centre*
Thur 4 May 7.30pm	**ISAAC STERN** violin **YEFIM BRONFMAN** piano Mozart Sonata in E minor, K304 Janáček Sonata A flat minor Schubert Sonatina in G minor, Op.137 Bartók Sonata No 1 (1921) £7.50 £10 £13 £17.50 £20 *Barbican Centre*
Fri 5 May 7.30pm	**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Gala Concert in aid of Sickle Cell disease, in association with Marks & Spencer. Sir Simon Rattle cond. Jean Rigby, Faye Robinson, Cynthia Clarey, Willis Morgan, Willard White, London Symphony Chorus. Beethoven Symphony No.3 Eroica Gershwin Extracts Porgy and Bess £8 £16.50 £22 £30 £40 *LSO Ltd. in assoc. R. Gubbay Ltd.*

Barbican Hall Saturday 13 May at 7pm

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Itzhak Perlman

The Daily Telegraph

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BEETHOVEN Two Romances
BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto

Tuesday 13 June, 7.30pm
BRAHMS Academic Festival Overture
MOZART Violin Concerto No.3 in G major
BRAHMS Violin Concerto

Thursday 15 June, 7.30pm
BERNSTEIN Candide Overture
BARBER Violin Concerto
TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto

Saturday 17 June, 7.30pm
SIBELIUS Finlandia
SIBELIUS Violin Concerto
MENDELSSOHN The Hebrides Overture (Fingals Cave)
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sat 29 Apr 8.00	**MICHAEL NYMAN ON THE SOUTH BANK: Michael Nyman Orchestra.** Music from the new film Carrington & Nyman's Harpsichord Concerto with Elizabeth Chojnacka (world prems); Six Celan Songs, sung by Hilary Summers. £20, £15, £10, £7.50 *SBC
Sun 30 Apr 7.30	**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA** Claus Peter Flor (cond) Heinrich Schiff (cello) Smetana Overture, The Bartered Bride; Dvořák Cello Concerto; Symphony No.9 (From the New World) £28, £22, £17, £10, £5 *Philharmonia Ltd
Tue 2 May 7.30	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Gala Concert. Sir Georg Solti (cond) Beethoven Symphony No 7; Bartok Concerto for Orch. £60, £50, £40, £30, £20, £10 *Lon Phil
Wed 3 May 7.30	**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA** Anne-Sophie Mutter (violin) Semyon Bychkov (cond) Hindemith Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Weber; Rihm Time Chant Music (UK prem); Beethoven Sym No.5. Spons: Motorola Tel-co £28, £22, £17, £10, £5 *Phil Ltd
Thu 4 May 7.30	**THE BAND OF THE LIFE GUARDS Celebrates 200 Years in the presence of HRH The Princess Margaret** Historical items and major items from the military band repertory. £18, £16, £14, £12, £10, £8, £6 *HCCCF/PLAT
Fri 5 May 7.30	**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA** Semyon Bychkov (cond) Anne-Sophie Mutter (violin) Electric Phoenix. Stravinsky Pulcinella; Prokofiev Violin Conc No.1; Berio Sinfonia. Sponsor: Motorola Tel-co £28, £22, £17, £10, £5 *Phil Ltd

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sat 29 Apr 7.15	**HILLIARD ENSEMBLE** with Susan Griffon, Gustav Clarkson, Yoko Inoue, Jane Salmon. British Premieres of Baltic 14th/15th century repertoire plus Vasks New work; Pärt Motets; Stabat Mater. £10, £8, £6 *SBC
Sun 30 Apr 7.45	**LONDON PHILHARMONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA** Andrew Quinn (cond) Raphael Wallfisch (cello) Delius The Walk to the Paradise Garden; Lutoslawski Cello Conc; Brahms Sym No 2. Sponsor: Audi £10, £7, £4 *Lon Phil
Wed 3 Thu 4 May 7.00	**NATIONAL OPERA STUDIO SHOWCASE** Bournemouth Sinfonietta, David Parry, Caroline Gawn (dir). Excerpts: Faust, La Traviata, Eugene Onegin as well as excerpts from operas by Britten, Donizetti, Massenet and Bellini. £16, £13, £9 *NOS
Fri 5 May 7.45	**ESTONIAN PHILHARMONIC CHAMBER CHOIR & SINFONIA 21** Arvo Pärt: Emerging Light. Tonu Kaljuste (cond) Part Magnificat, Te Deum (with piano & strings); Silouan's Song; Berliner Messe (with strings) £16, £12.50, £9.50, £6 *SBC

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Saturday 29 April 5.00 pm NB: starting time	**SATURDAY SCHUBERTIAD** Song Recital Series Judith Howarth sop, David Mattinson baritone, *Malcolm Martineau* piano Songs from Sept to Nov 1816 including *Geheimnis & Sehnsucht* All seats £7 Wigmore Hall *4pm: Pre-concert lecture* £2.50 (£2 with ticket) incl. coffee/pastries
Saturday 29 April 7.30 pm	**PHILIPPE CASSARD** piano French Season **WALTZES PROGRAMME.** *Ravel:* Valses nobles et sentimentales *Liszt:* Valse-Impromptu; Valse-Oubliée No.2; Soirées de Vienne, Mephisto Waltz; Waltzes by Tchaikovsky, Dukas, Skriabin, Levitzki and Moszkowski £12, £10, £8, £6 Wigmore Hall/French Institute
Sunday 30 April 11.30 am NB: starting time	**ENDELLION STRING QUARTET** Coffee Concert Haydn: String Quartet in E flat Op.71 No.3 Brahms: Quartet in A minor Op.51 No.2 £7 including programme and coffee/sherry/juice Wigmore Hall
Sunday 30 April 7.00pm NB: starting time	**THE FINZI SINGERS** Paul Spicer director Julian Philips: New Work (world première) Works by Tippett, M. Blatchly, Finzi, Elgar, Britten £9.00, £7.50, £6.00, £4.50 Sponsored by the Finzi Trust
Monday 1 May 7.30 pm	**SALLY BISHOP and ANNE-MARIE HASTINGS** piano duo Debussy: En blanc et noir Messiaen: Visions de l'amen Nos. 4 - 7 *Shostakovich: Concertino Op. 94; Rakhmaninov: Suite No. 2* £11, £9, £7, £5 Supported by Yamaha-Kemble Mgt: Hazard Chase
Tuesday 2 May 1.05 pm NB: starting time	**PHILIP DUKES** viola, **SOPHIA RAHMAN** piano Schumann: Adagio and Allegro Henze: Sonata; Brahms: Sonata in E flat Op.120 No. 2 Supported by Lloyds Music Foundation and the City of Westminster £3 (concessions £1) YCAT (registered charity)
Tuesday 2 May 7.30 pm	**REBECCA GILLIVER** cello, **PAUL JANES** piano Schumann: Fantasiestücke Op.73; Webern: 2 Pieces; 3 Little Pieces Op.11; Britten: Sonata Op.65; Dutilleux: Trois strophes sur le nom de Sacher; Chopin: Sonata in G min Op. 65 £9.00, £7.50, £6.00, £4.50 Pierre Fournier Award Recital/Martin Musical Scholarship Fund
Wednesday 3 May 6.00 pm NB: starting time	**THE NASH ENSEMBLE** Rush-Hour Concert Mozart: Divertimento in F K213 Dvořák: Bagatelles for harmonium and strings Op.47 Dvořák: Serenade in D minor Op. 44 All seats £7 Wigmore Hall/BBC Radio 3
Wednesday 3 May 8.00 pm NB: starting time	**THE SOLOMON TRIO** Beethoven: *Kakadu* Variations in G Op.121a Mendelssohn: Piano Trio in D minor Op.49 Brahms: Trio in C Op.87 £12, £10, £8, £6 Supported by IMP
Thursday 4 May 7.30 pm	**ANNE EVANS** soprano Song Recital Series **LIONEL FRIEND** piano Schumann: Frauenliebe und-leben Op.42; Wolf: 7 Lieder Haydn: 3 Canzonettas; Wagner: Wesendonk Lieder £16, £14, £10, £8 Wigmore Hall
Friday 5 May 7.30 pm	**HOLYWELL ENSEMBLE** Schumann: *Märchenerzählungen* Op.132; Jeffery Wilson: Elegy Bridge: Phantasie Trio in C minor; Milhaud: Suite Howells: Piano Quartet in A minor £11, £9, £7, £5 Supported by William Heath & Co (Solicitors) Mgt: Jean Judge
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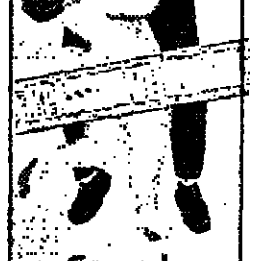

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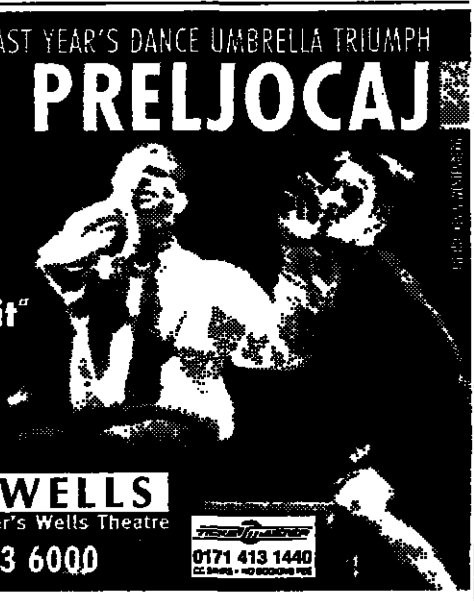

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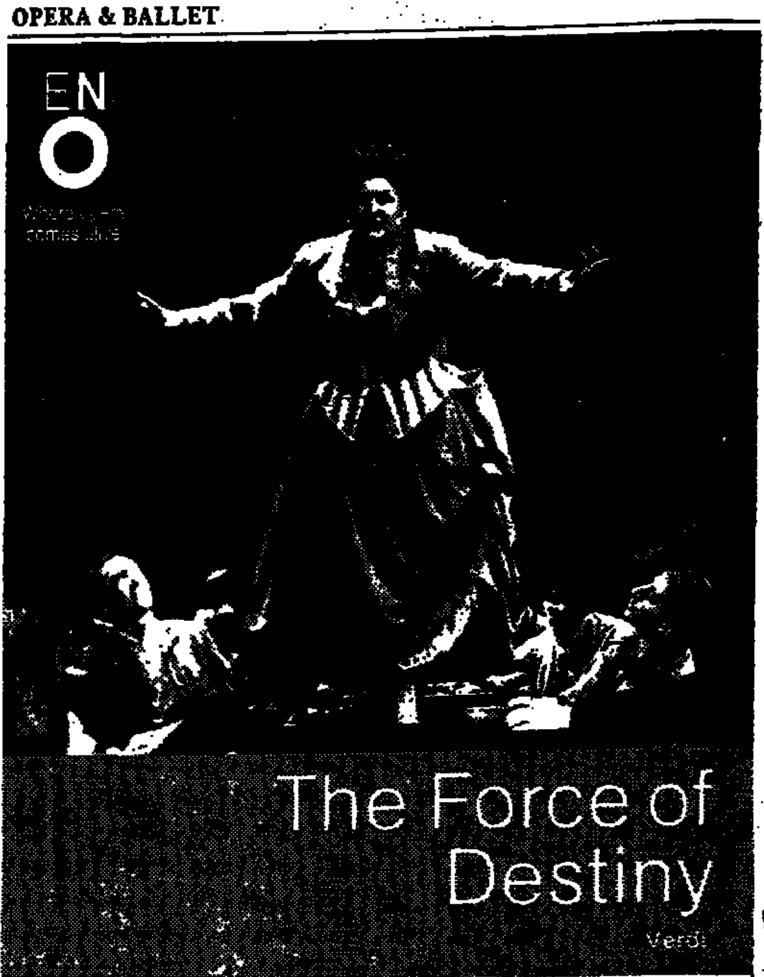

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Not up to scratch as a national asset

RICHARD MORRISON

Perhaps it was inevitable that an institution founded on the assumption that mankind is incorrigibly greedy would become a byword for discord. The question is whether it is too late to turn the National Lottery into something of which the nation can be proud.

But wait a minute. Isn't the lottery a raging success? Aren't takings rumoured to be *six times* the expected figure? Hasn't the debut of the scratch card revitalised the newsagent trade as emphatically as Miss Anthea Turner's awesome dentistry has perked up Saturday night TV?

You bet, *as they say*. Judged purely in commercial terms, the lottery has been the biggest thing to hit British culture since Dame Clara Butt. *But the* lottery was never meant to be judged purely in commercial terms. Its primary aim was not to hand out £17 *million to one man,* drive another to suicide, and create a permanently changing sideshow of ghoulish media excitement. It was meant to improve the quality of life.

What's gone wrong? The galling answer is: nothing that was not predicted. On Thursday *The Independent* suggested that the "star*tling redistribution of wealth from* ordinary working people to leading Conservatives is not what most folk expected to happen to money from the lottery". Oh really? I think that is *exactly* what people expected. The only surprise of the Churchill debacle is that it has *happened so blatantly.*

The fear was always that the lottery would winkle vast sums from the working classes to pay for *middle-class pleasures. That* is now reality. Ask your newsagent what sort of people are coming back, day after day (and in some cases, *hour after hour) to buy the* scratch cards. The answer will be that it is people who look as though they can least afford to gamble.

Then consider the three big *lottery-funded projects announced* so far. The Arts Council gives a provisional thumbs-up to a £50 million South Bank project de*signed by its own deputy chair*man. The Heritage Fund makes its generous handout to the Churchills, and then buys what will be an exclusive *hunting* lodge *in the* Scottish highlands. These are not grants likely to impinge on the lives of the people scratching and *praying in newsagents every day.*

Any sane Government would have built up goodwill by *handing out lottery money* to unimpeachable "good causes" — charities and such like — *before* dishing out largesse to middle*class fun-palaces. This* Government, of course, does the opposite.

That is one area which needs swift remedial action. The Government should also do something to counter the accusation that the lottery is an Establishment stitch-up. *Last month,* Lord Gowrie announced the Arts Council's first lottery allocations. This week, Lord Rothschild announced the Heritage Fund's grants. Now, *don't get me wrong. Some of my* best friends are earls. But all these lords-a-leaping make the lottery *seem like* some medieval village fête, with the local *toff exercising* his right to judge the Most Bountiful Milkmaid Contest.

Again, *this was predicted* and could have been avoided. In November 1993, for instance, I wrote: "It looks as if the same old crowd *that has so comprehensively* fouled up current arts policy will also be entrusted with lottery handouts. What a missed opportunity to widen the tiny elite that *decides who deserves subsidy.*" I wish I had been proved wrong.

But these mistakes pale beside the lottery's central absurdity. *Which is: while we build vast new* culture palaces with lottery money, the arts are dying all around us. So much money is coming into the *lottery's coffers now, it appears, that all the big capital projects —* from the Bankside Tate to the Cardiff Opera House — will be funded within four years. Yet not a *penny can go where it is most* desperately needed: to enhance subsidy for fine performing companies on the brink of bankruptcy.

The Government has finally woken up to this nonsense. Some arts organisations *have apparently been told private*ly that when all the capital projects are funded, it may then be possible to use lottery money as normal *arts subsidy. That, however,* will be too late for some companies.

What most depresses me about the lottery-funded schemes so far *proposed, however, is their utter* predictability. Cities vie with each other for prestige: hence all these opera house and museum propos*als. Existing cultural giants —* Covent Garden, the South Bank — rush to bolster their own status *quo with vast redevelopments.*

Nobody, it seems, is willing to step outside the constraints of self-interest and take a hard look at what *the British arts scene actually needs.* Where is the nationwide initiative to put arts education and performing opportunities back into classrooms? Or *the imaginative* voucher scheme that would provide, say, four free tickets a year for top-class performances to all those under 25? Either initiative could transform the cultural face of Britain and build audiences far *into the 21st century. Both could* easily be funded by lottery money.

Yet neither will happen: nor anything remotely like them. *Why?* Because old pals would not benefit. Old school ties would not be acknowledged. Vision might be required, and a concept of public service rather than self-service. Does such public service still exist in modern Britain? One lives in faint hope — just like the people in the queue for the scratch cards.

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Profession: Actor

Age: 35

The early years? Got the *acting bug aged 12 when cast* — against his will — as Tom Sawyer in a school production. Amateur dramatics kept the flame alive until, after A levels, he found himself with offers from all the major London colleges. He chose the Guildhall *School of Music and Drama.*

Where have we seen him? You will know his face from the television sit-coms *Home To Roost* and *Haggard* and from leading roles in such series as *Full Stretch* and the excellent *Take Me Home.*

Theatre? Lots of it, including seasons at the Royal Court, Lyric, National and the West Yorkshire Playhouse. *A Going Concern* and, most recently, *Morning and Evening* have been especially well-received.

Mr Versatile then: "Mr Too-Versatile, perhaps," he says. "I always enjoyed the variety, but could probably have been a lot more famous by now had I concentrated on just one aspect of my character or on one particular medium. Ultimately, though, *my motivation is to be a good* actor, not a celebrity."

Chilling: Dinsdale in *i.d.*

Why the current buzz then? *He has the lead role in a new* British film, *i.d.*, out next Friday. Heading a cast that also includes Warren Clarke, Sean Pertwee and *Saskia Reeves, he* plays a detective constable who goes undercover to infiltrate a gang of London football *hooligans. It is* a one-man's-descent-into-hell scenario, with his character becoming corrupted and ultimately destroyed by the evil he encounters. And he is great.

Er, but doesn't Reece usually play the nice lad? "That's *why I was so desperate to* get the part," he says. "I knew I could do it, even if nobody else did."

Reborn as an icon of yob culture at 35, then? Steady on. That wound on his hand *is from too much gardening* over Easter, not some knife fight.

Can't see Tim Roth or Gary Oldman weeding a border: *See i.d.* and you will be *convinced* Reece *would not* either. He is very scary — more likely to run amok with the hoe.

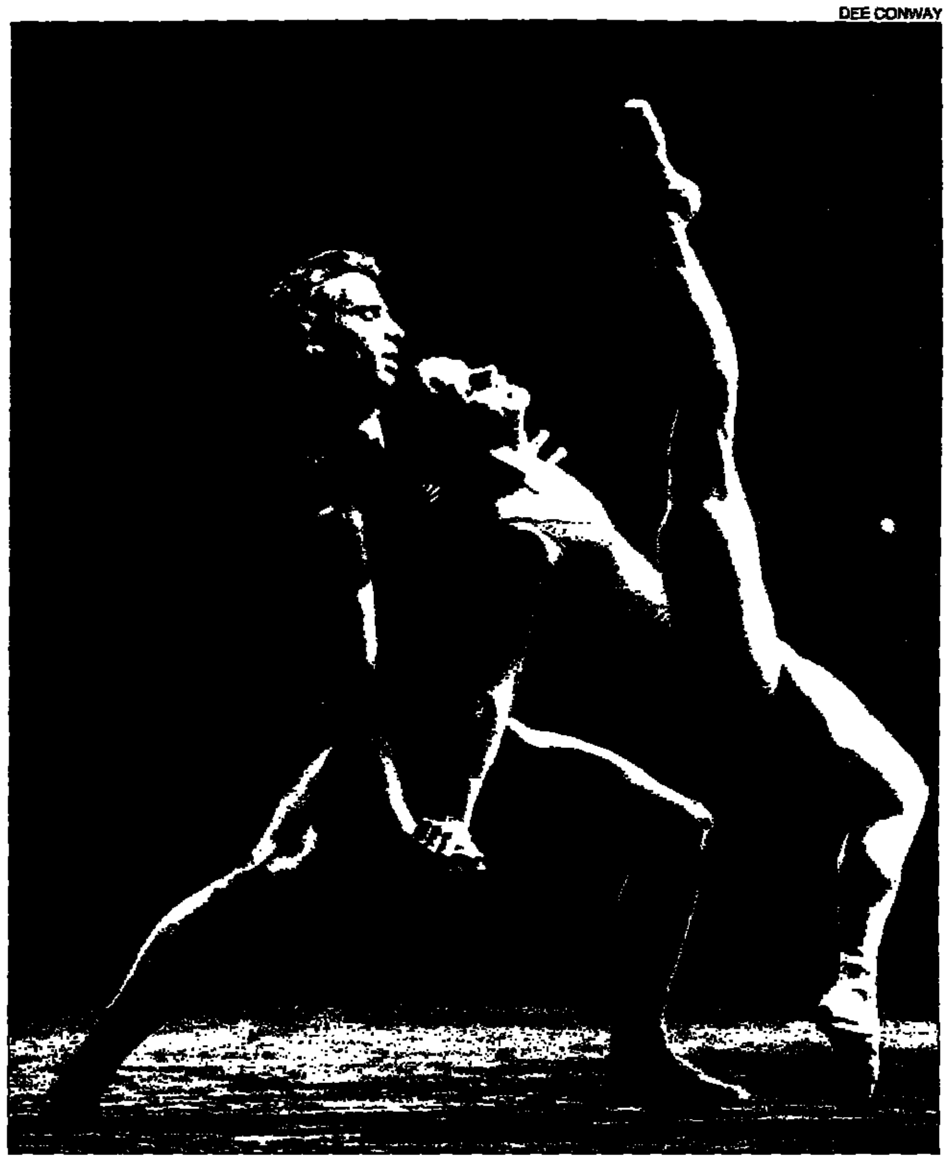
So stardom beckons: "Without wanting to sound too arrogant, *it was my turn,*" he says. "Actually no. I don't care if it does sound arrogant. I've worked hard and I've been good enough for a *number of years and I've* deserved a film role like this. I always knew one would come to me, but it's not before time."

ALAN JACKSON

Stretched between two texts

DANCE: **Debra Craine** reviews the new Forsythe work at Covent Garden

DEE CONWAY


Royal Ballet dancers at their best: Zoltan Solymosi and Deborah Bull in *Steptext*

William Forsythe is not a choreographer short of steps — they pour out of him like a careering *juggernaut. So it is no surprise* that having told the Royal Ballet he was incapable of delivering more than ten minutes of new *material for his* Covent Garden commission, he should come up with almost half an hour of fresh choreography. His new piece, *Firstext, has been grafted on to Steptext,* a 1985 creation new to London, thus giving the Royal almost 45 minutes of Forsythe.

Part of the reason for such productivity is that *Firstext* is a team effort, inspired by the *American choreographer but* also the result of input from two of his assistants at the Frankfurt Ballet, Dana Caspersen and Antony Rizzi. Forsythe *has his movement* principles down to such a formula that he is able to farm his work out this way, forsak*ing what he calls "the hierar*chical authorship" of traditional choreographers.

Does it matter that he didn't *write all the steps himself?* Not *really. They still carry his* characteristic signature: extreme piled upon extreme in a casual profusion of perilous virtuosity.

Forsythe has an annoying habit of playing with convention merely to flout it. So the red velvet curtain is up well *before everyone is due to* take their place, affording a view of stagehands at work. Then an abrupt descent of the house *lights leaves the arriving audi*ence to stumble blindly to their seats. The darkness is there so those of us in our seats can appreciate the row of flames *across the stage,* below the projected image which reads: "The organisation of culture".

Sylvie Guillem is on stage *and no one is paying attention,* especially since the house lights have come back on. But eventually the audience is ready to absorb the wildly askew convulsions that are twitching her into unrecognisable shapes. Guillem is extraordinary — she can ac*commodate her body to such* grotesqueries, making the move from sense to nonsense and back again. Her colleagues, too, find that extra *dimension as they answer* Forsythe's calls on their physical capabilities, stop-starting themselves into bursts of bone-cracking intensity and perfect classical *positions.* But no matter how terrific they look, and they do, this is a work of cynical impersonality, height*ened by the predominant si*lence of Thom Willems's score.

The house lights are still on when *Steptext* begins and suddenly Forsythe starts to be fun. The music helps — a Bach Chaconne for violin — and the dance language is succulently sensual, its hyper-extensions *serving a fuller personal com*mitment to expression. Some of the lines are beautifully shaped, the current of energy fluently exposed. It is thrilling *to see what Forsythe does to* the Royal's dancers, especially Deborah Bull, who inhabits the choreography with a ferocious grace.

Nothing could be further from the overstatement of Forsythe than the glorious harmonies of Ashton. He cre*ated Rhapsody in* 1980 to celebrate the Queen Mother's 80th birthday. Now the artist *Patrick Caulfield has given the* work shocking new designs that completely remove *Rhapsody* from its pretty-pretty context. *The set soars in arches of primary colours,* as if a cave-dweller went wild with a paintbrush. The effect is stunning in itself, but totally dis*combobulating. The costumes* are quite ugly.

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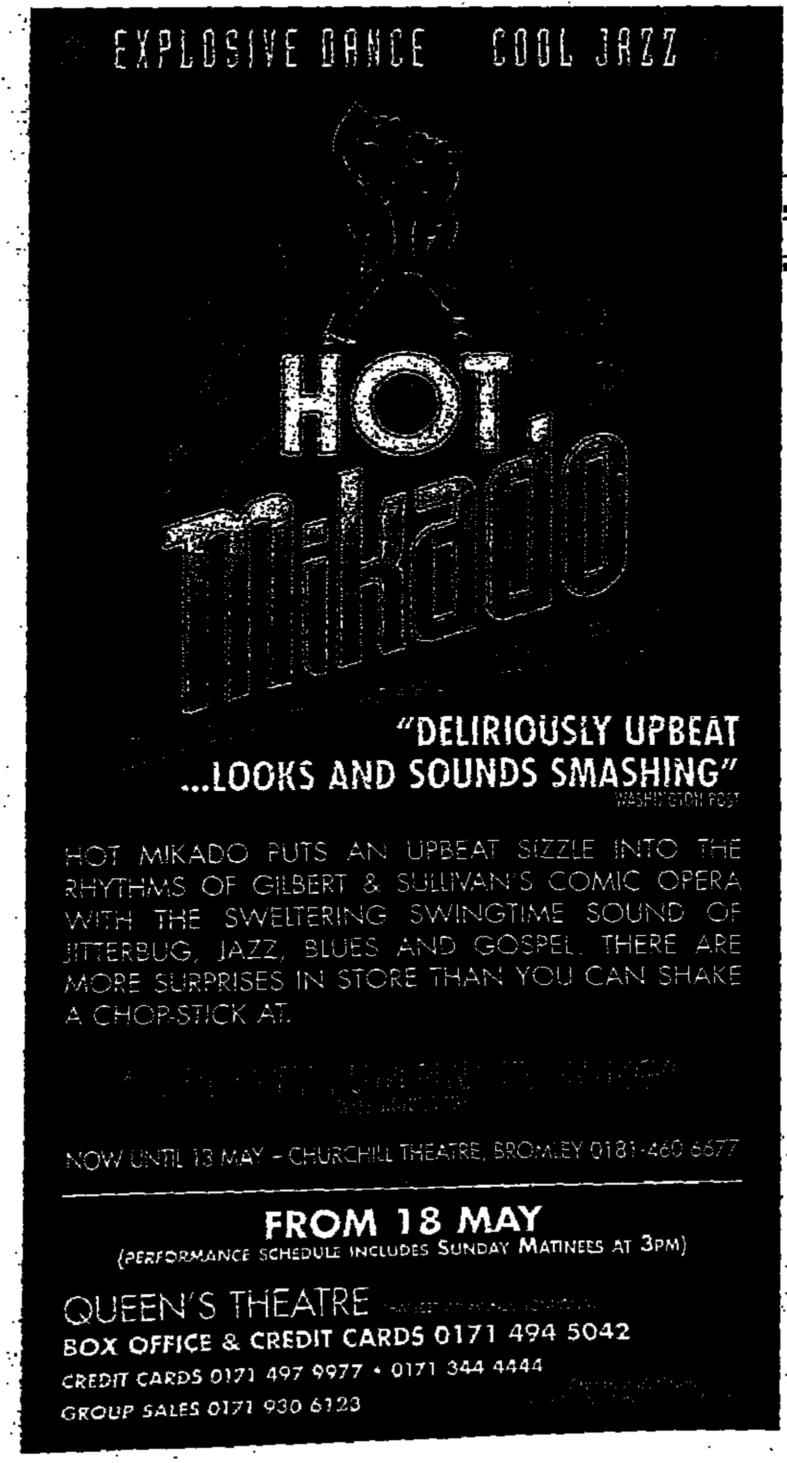
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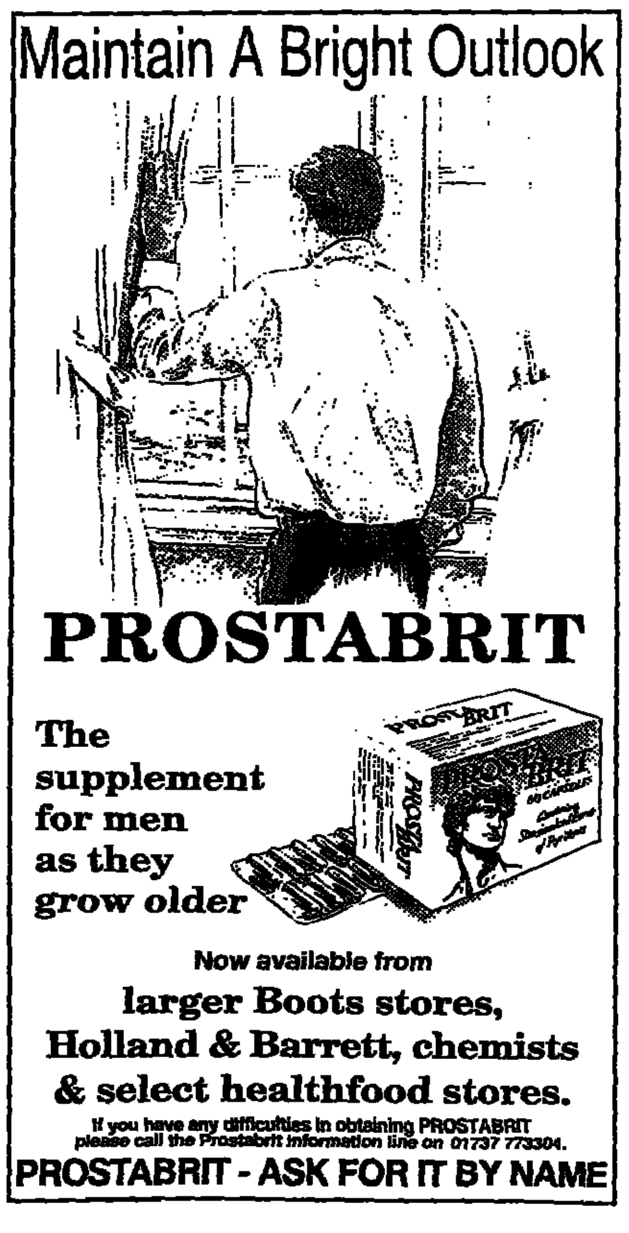
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ARTS

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**: Exhilaratin' *song 'n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller.* Non-stop energy on foot.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◩ **BROKEN GLASS**: Arthur Miller's masterly drama, distilling his lifelong concern with personal responsibility. David Thacker's production, with Henry Goodman and Margot Leicester.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

☐ **DESIGN FOR LIVING**: Rachel Weisz, Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico in Coward's *menage a trois* comedy. Sean Mathias's award-winner, with even more sexual rough and tumble than at the Donmar.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm ♿

◩ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI**: Juliet Stevenson and Simon Russell Beale in Webster's tragedy of incest, murder and the borderland of the mind. Philip Franks directs Greenwich Theatre's sell-out success.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1746). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◩ **DUSKY WARRIORS**: Indian soldiers wounded in the First World War and sympathetically treated at their Brighton *Pavilion hospital. A story worth telling bu* [illegible]
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm, until May 6 ♿

☐ **IF WE ARE WOMEN**: Richard Olivier directs Joan Plowright and Diana Quick in a play by Canadian Joanna McClelland Glass: three generations of women come together after a death and deal with their past.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Today, 2.30 and 7.45pm. Final performances. ♿

☐ **IN PRAISE OF LOVE**: Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Rattigan drama about bravely facing death. Interesting and finally touching as it shows the effects, ill and good, of emotional restraint.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◩ **INDIAN INK**: Felicity Kendal, Art Malik and Margaret Tyzack in Tom Stoppard's latest, wittily, poignantly, exploring aspects of Anglo-Indian resentments and respect.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE**: Miriam Margolyes plays the tweedy soap heroine in Frank Marcus's excellent comedy with a bite. Serena Evans and Josephine Tewson play her treacherous companion and boss. Mark Raymond directs.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 6111). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5.30pm

◩ **THE LOVERS**: Goldoni's *Gl'innamorati*, light-weight but played in exuberantly comic style.
Gate, 11 Pembridge Rd, W11 (0171-229 0706). Final performance tonight 7.30pm

☐ **THE MAIDEN STONE**: Matthew Lloyd directs Rona Munro's new play, set among wild road-wanderers in the early 19th Century. Cast includes Frances Tomelty and Paul Higgins. Winner of the first Peggy Ramsay Play Award.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm ♿

☐ **ONE FINE DAY**: Joe McGann's compelling performance as a devoted dad caught up in a child-abuse case. Dennis Lumborg's engrossing one-man play.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◩ **SIMPATICO**: *Powerful acting from* Ciaran Hinds, Sean McGinley, Janet McTeer and Tony Haygarth in Sam Shepard's first play for a decade. A shared secret from long ago connects two men now living very different lives. Not vintage Shepard but inciteful and gripping.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Until May 27

■ **SKYLIGHT**: Michael Gambon and Lia Williams play an estranged couple: the man's son pleads for their reconciliation. Richard Eyre directs David Hare's tenth play for the National.
National, (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Now previewing, 7.30pm, opens May 4 ♿

☐ **A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**: David Thacker's acclaimed production, with Bernard Hill superb as the NY longshoreman consumed by unspeakable love for his niece.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800). Tue-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 2pm, Sat and Sun, 3pm

◩ **WHAT I DID IN THE HOLIDAYS**: Philip Osment's compassionate study of chaotic family life, set in Devon in 1963. Mike Alfreds directs for Cambridge Theatre Co.
Drill Hall, Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Until May 13

☐ **THE WIVES' EXCUSE**: Excellent rediscovery of Thomas Southerne's 1691 comedy where an injured wife considers revenge in an era of unbridled lechery. Max Stafford-Clark directs.
Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm ♿

◩ **THE YIDDISH TROJAN WOMEN**: Quick re-appearance for Carole Braverman's rich play on the demands and dangers of self-deceit. Fine playing by the four women, led by Maria Charles as a memory-torn matriarch, and terrific performance by Ronan Vibert as a horny baker. Recommended.
Cockpit, Gateforth Street, NW8 (0171-402 5081). Tue-Sun, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Until May 7. ♿

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Arcadia**, Haymarket (0171-930 8800) ... ◩ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) ... ◩ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ... ■ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) ... ◩ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) ... ■ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) ... ■ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) ... ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ... ☐ ***Mama I Want to Sing***: *Cambridge* (0171-494 5080) ... ■ **Miss Saigon**: Theatre Royal (0171-494 5400) ... ☐ **My Night With Reg**: Criterion (0171-839 4488) ... ☐ **A Passionate Woman**: Comedy (0171-369 1731) ... ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ... ☐ **She Loves Me**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) ... ■ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) ... ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ... ◩ **The Woman in Black**: *Fortune (0171-836 2238)*

Ticket *information* supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CAPTIVES (15): Romance in a prison dentist's surgery. Modest British film that loses its way in melodrama, with Tim Roth and Julia Ormond. Director, Angela Pope.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527)
Warner ♿ (0171-437 4343)

EXOTICA (18): See Critics' choice, page 2

EYES WITHOUT A FACE (18): Welcome revival of Georges Franju's haunting horror film about skin grafting, made in 1959. With Pierre Brasseur, Alida Valli and Edith Scob.
ICA ♿ (0171-930 3647)

◆ **LEGENDS OF THE FALL** (15): *Bogus epic about a Montana family early* in the century. With Brad Pitt, Aidan Quinn and Anthony Hopkins. Director, Edward Zwick.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

THIN ICE (12): Gauche but sweet British film about lesbian ice-skaters. Fiona Cunningham Reid directs Charlotte Avery and Sabra Williams.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **MGM Tottenham Court Rd** (0171-636 6148)

CURRENT

◆ **AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE** (15): A teenager's postwar theatre experiences. Fascinating abrasive drama from Beryl Bainbridge's novel. Mike Newell directs Alan Rickman, Hugh Grant and Georgina Cates.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

LE COLONEL CHABERT (PG): Stodgy presentation of a good Balzac yarn about a man thought dead trying to reclaim his past. With Gérard Depardieu and Fanny Ardant.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN (18): A decent transfer of Ariel Dorfman's play, but a cramped, impersonal film for Roman Polanski. With Sigourney Weaver, Ben Kingsley, Stuart Wilson.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366)

◆ **DISCLOSURE** (18): Michael Douglas says no to Demi Moore. Superficially enjoyable version of Michael Crichton's blockbuster.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **DUMB & DUMBER** (12): Idiotic, good-natured comedy that outstays its welcome, with Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

HOOP DREAMS (15): Marvellous documentary by Steve James, Fred Marx and Peter Gilbert about two inner city kids and their dreams of playing professional basketball.
Electric ♿ (0171-792 2020) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279)

◆ **JUST CAUSE** (18): Harvard law professor Sean Connery wrestles with a murder case in Florida. Ludicrous investigative thriller, with Laurence Fishburne. Director, Arne Glimcher.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE LITTLE RASCALS** (U): Tame adventures of innocent imps, based on the *Our Gang* shorts. Penelope Spheeris directs a difficult child cast.
Plaza (0800 888997) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **LITTLE WOMEN** (U): Fresh, tender, feminist version of the 19th-century classic, with Winona Ryder, Susan Sarandon, and Gabriel Byrne. Director, Gillian Armstrong.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE** (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer by stage director Nicholas Hytner, with Helen Mirren and Ian Holm.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Phoenix** (0171-369 1721) **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

MRS. PARKER AND THE VICIOUS CIRCLE (15): Alan Rudolph's melancholy and witty portrait of Dorothy Parker and her era. Compelling performances from Jennifer Jason Leigh and a well-chosen cast.
Minema (0171-235 4225)

◆ **MURIEL'S WEDDING** (15): Ugly duckling becomes swan in P.J. Hogan's boisterous, queasy Aussie comedy.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) ***Kensington*** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **NOBODY'S FOOL** (15): Endearing slice of small-town Americana, with Paul Newman, Melanie Griffith, Bruce Willis and Jessica Tandy.
Empire (0800 888911) **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **ONCE WERE WARRIORS** (18): Forceful New Zealand tale of Maori culture ravaged by the urban ghetto. Lee Tamahori directs a powerful cast.
Electric ♿ (0171-792 2020) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **ONE HUNDRED AND ONE DALMATIANS** (U): Disney's pleasant, witty cartoon version of Dodie Smith's book about endangered puppies, first released in 1961.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **OUTBREAK** (18): Taut virus thriller that turns silly. With Dustin Hoffman and Rene Russo and Morgan Freeman. Director, Wolfgang Petersen.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

POETIC JUSTICE (15): Over-ambitious romantic odyssey from *Boyz 'N' the Hood* director John Singleton, with Janet Jackson and Tupac Shakur.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **PULP FICTION** (18): Quentin Tarantino's flamboyant crime epic weaves together three tales from the LA underworld. With John Travolta, Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION**: How to survive long decades in prison. Engrossing drama with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. Director, Frank Darabont.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** ♿ (0800 888997)

Lee's concise Latin primer

Anyone can play the samba, with a little help. **Hilary Finch** shakes a maraca

On the beat: Lee Higgins teaches seven and eight-year-old pupils at the Beech Primary School in Peterborough

The noise was so loud that the cathedral cat had a heart attack that night and died. Lee Higgins's Peterborough Community Samba Band is no respecter of persons, and when they process round town, even fast food comes to a screeching halt.

Street drumming, or *batucada*, is the percussion music of the Rio Carnival: but *when it hits an English market* town, it is apocalypse now. Higgins has been causing mayhem as Peterborough's music development worker for two years now, and the Eastern Arts Board, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough Arts Council are still keen to fund him. What is more, Evelyn Glennie has just agreed to be patron of the band.

The weekly workshops, though — and the odd foray into town — are just a small part of Higgins's work. A week or two ago he was on a week's residency at the Beech *Primary School, working with* Urdu and Punjabi-speaking eight-year-olds through an interpreter. Before that there was a project with young offenders, and before that a schools spectacular at Snape Maltings.

When he arrived in Peterborough, it was Higgins's brief to pull together the city's scattered (some would say disintegrated) community of widespread townships, purely through musical activity. "I wanted to set up something exciting, accessible. Samba works so well, right across the board, because you can enter at any level. Nobody has to have played anything ever before — and no one gets the duff instrument," he says.

With the *ganza*, a type of shaker, numerous scrapers and any number of *surdos* (big drums) in his full *batteria*, Higgins starts by teaching the children four basic rhythms: *the pulse, the base rhythm, the* balancing rhythm and the two-bar rhythm. "That's the construction of samba. You can expand on that and take it as far as you want." You apparently learn a simple pattern and keep it going full blast until the bandleader blows the whistle and cues the *batteria* to change to a different sequence. There is more to it, believe it or not, than meets the ear.

At the Salters Assessment Centre, Glinton, Peterborough, a secure wing for girls aged 15 to 18, Higgins works with groups of six over eight-week periods. "It's a volatile situation. The group may be constantly changing, as one girl goes on probation or leaves. Getting the group dynamics to work can be difficult. And the concentration level is quite low, so generally an hour is enough at a time. I just try to *focus* the group. It's all about motivation. Samba is not the end result: the process is just as important," he says. As a result of Higgins's last visit, one group wanted to form a rock band. They started writing their own songs, and the centre confirmed its commitment to a music programme by buying them two guitars and a drum kit.

Then there was the ten-day samba project as part of a "Celebration of Schools Music" at the Snape Maltings. Suffolk's advisory music teacher had heard of Higgins's work and invited him to create a project, complete with Inset training for teachers, for the Halifax, Hillside and Downing Primary Schools, and Stoke High School, Ipswich. The Northgate Arts Centre set up and funded the work, and, after ten days, 120 of the pupils paraded in through the back door of Britten's sedate Maltings, down the aisles, past the sold-out audience of 1,000, and up on stage. The tranquillity of the Alde marshes, with the wind whispering through the reeds, has never been the same since.

"I was talking to this lady called Sheila [Sheila Colvin, general manager of the Aldeburgh Foundation] and she said she'd lived in Rio for two years and it sounded totally authentic," Higgins says. "It took her right back, she said."

YOUNG AT art

GET INTO THE RHYTHM

- Lee Higgins may be contacted at: Peterborough Arts Centre, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5JQ (01733 237073).
- During May he will be working at the Corby Community Arts Centre, Northamptonshire (01536 460555) and performing at the Corby Carnival on June 17.

Laugh? They nearly died

COMEDY

Some unfunny business has been going *on between the guardians* of our late comedians' memory. For a while it looked dead serious, as a schism occurred in the group which was formed to honour them with blue plaques. As a result of this affair, which can fairly be described as side-splitting, there are now two outfits where four years ago there was none: Comic *Heritage, which operates in London,* and the Dead Comics' Society, which handles the rest of the country. Better still, the two now get on famously.

Tomorrow evening the society is holding its biggest do so far when it celebrates the life and work of the revered *Carry On* film director, Gerald Thomas, at Pinewood Studios. More than 50 members of the *Carry On* team are expected to be there, including Barbara Windsor, Bernard Cribbins, Joan Sims and Lance Percival.

If anything can convince the sceptics that such an organisation really does exist, this event should do the trick. Last year a society bearing the same name formed a central part of the action in Terry Johnson's West End stage hit *Dead Funny*, but was widely taken to be a figment of the author's lively imagination.

So real is the society that it now has an ambitious programme for the next phase of its life. One of the most *pressing aims is to have the profession*al wisdom of today's top comics committed to video for the benefit of aspiring youth. It fears that for a trade in which expertise is so dearly won, too little is being done to preserve the skills in any formal way. It also intends to sponsor young comics on a yearly basis, supporting promising amateurs while they try to make the transition to full-time work.

It now boasts a membership of 800, nearly half of whom are expected at Pinewood tomorrow, and a quarterly magazine about its activities. Meanwhile Comic Heritage, under the chairmanship of its founder, David Graham, is concentrating on the establishment of a comedy museum in London by the year 2001. Since Graham first had the idea of forming a society, the plaques have sprung up in profusion, at about £800 a time, commemorating Sid James, Arthur Haynes, Charlie Chaplin, Benny Hill, Tony Hancock, Kenneth Williams and half a dozen more.

At every unveiling there is a reunion of senior members of the British comedy establishment, a buffet lunch, and a spirited auction of memorabilia to raise money for medical charities.

Since humour, like football, is more important to its fans than mere matters of life and death, controversy was inevitable. It has come in the form of the society's own name, and perhaps not surprisingly when you consider how the profession prides itself on its live work. "We don't like the word 'dead'," says the chairman, Jack Douglas, the veteran actor and director. "Gerald Thomas also hated the word, and we intend to change the name to the British Comics Society, which will also give us the advantage of being able to cover Scotland, Wales and Ireland as well. *All right, and Cornwall.*"

It seems odd that such a close-knit profession never had an organisation like this before. As Douglas explains, most of the commemorating has traditionally been done by the local council or the relevant appreciation society. He says that if it were left entirely to him, the great old comics such as Rob Wilton would be automatic choices for a plaque. In fact this vexed question is addressed by a small selection committee, of which he is a member. Its deliberations are as weighty as the acts were uplifting.

"But that is just as it should be," he maintains. "People like Tommy Handley and Vic Oliver took us through a terrible time 50 years ago and lightened our load considerably. So often, when you walk down the road, you can read on some bridge or other that it was built by Charlie Grimshaw or whoever in 1811, and you say 'Thanks, that's lovely. But who was Charlie Grimshaw?' It would be all wrong for chaps who contributed so much to national morale not to be properly remembered."

ALAN FRANKS

● *Dead Comics Society — 01483 414927; Comic Heritage — 0181-348 1157*

Queen George

SISTER GEORGE is the central character in a hugely popular radio soap opera. To her thousands of devoted fans she is real, the district nurse for the village of Applehurst. Away from the microphone, though, she is Jane Buckbridge, an ageing, drunken actress and the lover of the childlike Alice. Then the BBC, in the person of Mercy Croft, threatens to write the character of Sister George out of the programme. Soon, Buckbridge faces not only the loss of her livelihood, but of her lover too . . .

Frank Marcus's poignant *The Killing of Sister George* was an immediate critical and popular success 30 years ago. It was then made into an equally successful, and controversial, film starring Beryl Reid and Susannah York. In this West End revival, Miriam Margolyes takes the part of Buckbridge, with Serena Evans as Alice and Josephine Tewson as Croft.

Theatre Club members can buy tickets for £14.50 (normal price £19.50) to see the show at the Ambassadors Theatre in West Street, WC2, on May 4. To book, call 0171-836 6111 or 0171-836 1171

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal *office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be* the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

THE TIMES
THE THEATRE CLUB

ON TOUR

● THREE one-act operas by Stephen Oliver. *Passion Killers* are an entree to a Hitchcock-like world of murderous designs and unfulfilled longings. Theatre Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one at:

LONDON
Young Vic
May 3-5. Tickets normally £15. Tel 0171-928 6363

EDINBURGH
Festival Theatre
May 12. Normally £12.50. Tel 0131-529 6000

POOLE
Arts Centre
May 19, 20. Normally £13, £15. Tel 01202 685222

● SEBASTIAN BARRY'S *The Steward of Christendom* is the story of one man's journey to true freedom. Two tickets for the price of one at:

BRIGHTON
Theatre Royal
May 8. Normally £7 to £14. Tel 01273 328488

LIVERPOOL
Everyman Theatre
May 17. Normally £7. Tel 0151-709 4776

SOON, ON A STAGE NEAR YOU

LONDON
Finborough Theatre
May 3-7, 9-11

● TOM SMITH's *Function of the Orgasm* is the story of sexologist Wilhelm Reich's very unconventional childhood. Tickets £5.50 (normally £7.50). Tel 0171-373 3842

PERTH
Perth Theatre
May 1-4

● JOHN DIGHTON's comedy *The Happiest Days of Your Life* has delighted audiences ever since its postwar premiere. Save 20 per cent on tickets (normally £11). Tel 01738 621031

YORK
Grand Opera House
May 1-6

● THE sharp suits and shades of Jake and Elwood Blues come to the stage in *Tribute to the Blues Brothers*. Save £2.50 on tickets (normally £5.50, £11.50, £14 and £16.50). Tel 01904 611858

LIVERPOOL
Playhouse
May 3

● GARETH HUNT stars in Richard Harris's *Outside Edge*, based on the television comedy hit about the trials of a village cricket team. Two tickets for the price of one in the stalls and dress circle (normal ticket prices £12). Tel 0151-709 8363

HULL
New Theatre
May 2

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7, £9, £11 and £13) for Chekhov's *The Seagull*. Tel 01482 226655

Bolton
Octagon Theatre
Until May 20

● MACHIAVELLI's *La Mandragola* is possibly the best comedy in the Italian language. Following the dramatic tradition of commedia dell'arte, this production combines set pieces with improvisation. Save 20 per cent on full price tickets (normally £6.75 to £12.25). Tel 01204 520661

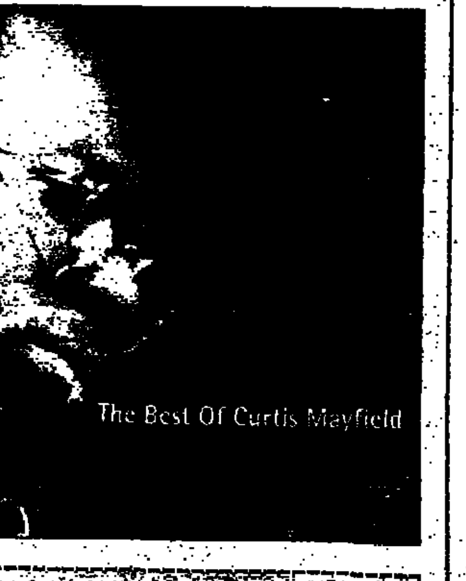
Coventry
Warwick Arts Centre
May 2-5

● EDITH WHARTON's *The House of Mirth* is a brilliant satirical portrait of a society driven by ruthless materialism. Tickets £8.50 (normally £9.95 and £11.50). Tel 01203 524524

HORNCHURCH
Queen's Theatre
May 5, 9-11

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8.90 to £12.90) to see Sally Hedges' adaptation of Thomas Hardy's classic love story *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. Tel 01708 443333

The WH Smith featured CD



If one man could be called the heart and mind of soul, it's Curtis Mayfield. Born in Chicago in 1942, he honed his vocal skills in church, blossomed under the influence of rhythm and blues, then carved a formidable career for himself as a singing social commentator. Drugs, war, racism, politics, religion, the environment – all are subjects on his songsheet. This week's CD features the best of them.

Take the coupon below to a WH Smith music counter and you can obtain the CD at a £3 saving on the normal price of £9.99. The offer is valid until May 20, 1995.

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هكذا من الأصل

RECORDINGS: The best Gaelic single in the world, probably; a strutting *Igor*; Schoenberg shines

[illegible]

Clive Davis

■ **RAY BROWN**
Some Of My Best Friends Are . . . The Piano Players
Telarc CD-83373★★★

THE advent of the compact disc has been a mixed blessing for artists and producers. How to make the best use of the extra playing time without yielding to self-indulgence or mere padding? Telarc's showcase for Ray Brown — the first in a planned series featuring this most flexible of bass players — solves the problem by pairing him with five different pianists. Ahmad Jamal steals the honours from the outset as he enlivens that old warhorse *Bag's Groove* with a display of soulful cross-rhythms strung above Lewis Nash's drum beat. Now that he has returned to an all-acoustic format after a lucrative foray into crossover music, Jamal is clearly enjoying a professional rebirth. He undertakes another deconstruction job on *St Louis Blues* and slips into serene ballad mode on *Love Walked In*.

Brown's muscular reunion with Oscar Peterson is inevitably the most eagerly awaited portion of the set. *St Tropez* and *How Come You Do Me?* are both marked by a restrained approach — by Peterson's virtuosic standards anyway — to blues-derived phrasing. Dado Moroni's contribution to *Giant Steps* proves the joker in the pack, opening at a funereal tempo before swerving into a playful Garneresque detour. Amid all this kinetic energy, Benny Green fashions a rare oasis of calm on *Just A Gigolo*, and Geoff Keezer makes the most of his one piece, a sinuous *Close Your Eyes*.

☐ **KENNY BURRELL**
The Best Of
Blue Note CDP-8304932★

UNLIKE their virile rock brethren, many jazz guitarists sound in danger of being washed away by rhythm sections and assorted horn players. Kenny Burrell fuses lyricism with a sturdy blues base. His compilation lifts two tunes from his after-hours masterpiece *Midnight Blue* — one of the truly essential 1960s albums — and mixes in boppish outings from both ends of his career.

☐ **DJANGO REINHARDT**
Django's Music
Hep CD-1041★★
L'Inoubliable
EMI CDP-7806582★★★

TWO contrasting facets of gypsy genius. Hep's selection, drawn from wartime recordings (some of them murky) in Paris and Brussels, sheds light on Reinhardt's dabblings with a big band. The more generalist French EMI collection leans towards the famous prewar repertoire of the Quintette du Hot Club de France and touches on the 1937 meeting with Coleman Hawkins.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ **TAKE THAT**
Nobody Else
RCA 74321 279092★★

UNLIKE so many of their teeny-pop predecessors — the Bay City Rollers, Bros and others — who were soon forsaken by fickle fans and routinely derided by everyone else, Take That have achieved sustained mega-sales while commanding the sort of critical admiration that Wet Wet Wet or Elton John would die for. What is their secret?

As the group's third album, *Nobody Else*, makes clear, they boast in Gary Barlow a good-looking man who can both write and carry a decent pop tune. Combining innocent charm with a self-centred worldliness, he is clearly a new George Michael in the making.

"Every girl needs a guy like me," he proclaims with breathtaking confidence on *Every Guy*. But then, as he points out on the more solemn *The Day after Tomorrow*, "Being loved is a big responsibility . . . It's so easy to walk away and leave that lady flat".

And compared with recent albums by Elton John and the Wets, *Nobody Else* has a thoroughly modern spring in its step. There is no shortage of big, set-piece ballads such as *Holding Back the Tears* and the seemingly unassailable *Back for Good* (still at No 1, for the fourth week). But songs such as *Sunday to Saturday*, *Hate It* and *Sure* are all tricked out with modish swingbeat arrangements, while *Lady Tonight* even boasts a rap intro and an almost happening hip-hop beat.

When their last album, *Everything Changes*, was shortlisted for the Mercury Music Prize, Take That put all the "teen fodder" criticisms behind them and now, with *Nobody Else*, they are heading for the realms of pure pop nirvana. Still the nagging feeling remains. Is that it?

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ **RUNRIG**
An Ubhal As Airde (The Highest Apple)
Chrysalis 8 82128★★

CELTIC music may be riding a wave of popularity but, once again, it is the creative department of an advertising agency that we have to thank for alerting the nation to the charms of this "minority-taste" piece of music. For until it was pressed into service as the soundtrack to an advertisement for Carlsberg lager, *An Ubhal As Airde* was an obscure track on *The Cutter and the Clan*, an album released by Scottish cult band Runrig in 1988.

Runrig: evocative theme

Composed by the group members Calum and Rory MacDonald, it starts as a quiet air that ebbs and flows with gentle grace, then gradually builds momentum until a chorus of massed voices arrives like a great bird sweeping over the horizon.

Like much Celtic music it seems to draw its power from some ancient collective memory, and despite (or perhaps even because of) the impenetrable Gaelic lyrics, it proves an extraordinarily evocative theme even when not accompanied by scenes of lithe young people enjoying a boozy game of cricket on the beach.

The CD version comes with three tracks from other Runrig albums, making it a good introduction to the veteran band's singular brand of Gaelic rock'n'roll.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **BORODIN**
Prince Igor
Gorchakova/Borodina/Grigorian/Kit/Minelkiev/Kirov Orchestra/Gergiev
Philips 442 537-2 (3 CDs)★★★

TO Rimsky-Korsakov and Glazunov, who orchestrated Borodin's unfinished opera, a third name has been added, Yuri Faliek. Working with the Kirov Opera's driving force, Valery Gergiev, he has added in some previously discarded material, including a powerful monologue for Prince Igor while he is still captive of the Polovtsian forces. There has also been a switch in the running order so that the Prologue is now followed by the first of the Polovstian acts, which includes the famous dances. This so-called "Maryinsky version" is clearly Gergiev's attempt to get some form into Borodin's unwieldy work, which veers between bewitching music and periods when everything takes a long time to happen.

On record it works extremely well, but then Gergiev is an old hand at shaping the less tractable pieces of the Russian repertoire, as he has shown with *Khovanshschina* and *Sadko*. Even he cannot disguise the lack of drama when Igor is on home territory in the Prologue and the final act, but the centre of the opera is made into powerful stuff. Gergiev coaxes properly exotic sounds from the Kirov players, often using very slow and almost dreamy tempos for the Polovtsian acts. No wonder the devisers of *Kismet* and its offspring, *Timbuktu*, decided to plunder Borodin. There is no shortage of vigour, however, among the Polovstians when they are dancing or coming back from another successful war.

The principal roles are distributed among the regular and admirable members of Gergiev's home company. Mikhail Kit adds bass gravity to the baritone title role, quite rightly as Igor spends the best part of the opera in impotent and sorrowful captivity. Gegam Grigorian, Covent Garden's deputy Pavarotti in *Ballo* last week, is forceful and steely-voiced as his son, Vladimir. And the two basses, Vladimir Ognovienko and Bulat Minelkiev, are well contrasted as the all-carousing, all-wenching Galitsky and Khan Konchak, who probably did much of the same when he was not being courteous to Igor.

Borodina: sultry

Gergiev displays especial tenderness when accompanying his two ladies. Galina Gorchakova shows great poise as Yaroslavna, who has plenty to lament about while her husband, Igor, is away at unsuccessful war and her brother, the evil Galitsky, is stirring things up at home. Olga Borodina is gracefully sultry as the Khan's daughter. And there are vivid cameos from Georgy Selezniev and Constantin Pluzhnikov as the two representatives of the people who change direction with every political wind that blows.

The "Maryinsky *Igor*" puts a bit of shape into Borodin and is the best available version.

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ **STRAUSS**
Songs
McLaughlin/Johnson
Hyperion CDA 66659★★

MARIE McLAUGHLIN spares all too little time out of her operatic life to record solo recitals, so this disc of 26 songs by Richard Strauss is all the more welcome. Not only does her soprano bring a bright, wide-eyed wonder to songs both of night and of brilliant morning and a beguiling sense of dream-spinning in Strauss's cradle songs, but some canny re-examination, too.

In her programming, she alternates Strauss's simplest settings — the Alsace folksongs, the early von Sallersleben songs — with some of his most ambiguous writing. The effect is remarkably telling. *Allerseelen*, for example, can so often become either cloyingly sentimental or over-heavy, dark as the grave itself. McLaughlin sings it with a sense of heightened expression which reveals it as a glowing Expressionist canvas. *Ruhe, meine Seele* takes on a similarly bold profile, starkly enunciated in a lean, almost vibratoless voice.

Other Strauss plums, such as *Die Nacht* and *Morgen*, are spread widely among lesser known songs. An innocent, early *The Thrush* confronts the chromatic ambivalence of *Sorrow, Anguish and Pain*: and *Das Bächlein*, composed in 1933 and dedicated to — er — Goebbels, tucks itself in between deceptively artless settings of the inevitable subjects of wandering and death. Graham Johnson's partnership at the piano is characteristically sensitive and shrewd.

☐ **BRAHMS/DVORAK/REGER**
Duets
Banse/Fassbaender/Garben
Koch Schwann 3-1259-2★★

SHORTLY before she announced her retirement, Brigitte Fassbaender passed on the flame to her pupil, young Juliane Banse, in an irresistible recording of duets by Brahms, Dvořák and Reger.

Banse, already making a name for herself as a Mozartian in Berlin, Salzburg, Glyndebourne and Vienna, has a soprano whose warm, dark colours and downy surface make it a perfect match for the mezzo-soprano of her teacher. And they share a passionate intensity of verbal response which concentrates the slow-moving expanses of many of Brahms's duets. They enjoy, too, the mother-daughter dialogue of *Good Advice* and the poignant questions and answers of *The Huntsman*.

Banse: dark colours

Dvořák's Moravian Songs are as challenging, and as much fun, for two voices as his Slavonic Dances are for four hands, while Reger's dense, verbose writing relaxes into the simplicity of a silent forest, an evening walk and spring festivities. Such an entertaining recital hardly deserves the execrable translations which accompany it; though the performances put one in a good enough mood almost to enjoy the nonsense of "no place for recipt [*sic*] of a fly".

20TH CENTURY

Stephen Pettitt

■ **SCHREKER**
Die Gezeichneten
Kruse/Connell/Pederson/Muff/Polgar/Berggold/Petzold/Berlin Radio Chorus/Deutsches SO Berlin/Zagrosek
Decca 444 442-2 (3 CDs)★★★

FRANZ SCHREKER'S opera *Die Gezeichneten* (The Branded), composed by the man who conducted the world premiere of Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*, is a fine addition to Decca's Entartete Musik series. Completed in 1918, it was widely seen before Schreker's music was banned by the Nazis in 1933. They declared that "there was no sexual-pathological aberration he would not have set to music". Even if its libretto, by Schreker himself, is a bit wordy, the plot is a straightforward tale concerning, like Zemlinsky's *Der Zwerg*, an ugly dwarf as misunderstood as he is misshapen.

Even if Schreker's music is sometimes a bit patchy in inspiration, it is at other times relentlessly powerful, breathing a post-*Elektra*-like exoticism, intensity and violence. Steamy its story may be, but this vast work also offers insights into ourselves: we all feel desire, inadequacy, pride, sublimation. The ending is marvellously effective as the principal hero descends into distracted madness: rootless music worthy of Schoenberg himself.

The cast is good, though some of the singing seems a bit stiff, as though the part was learnt exclusively for the recording. Heinz Kruse is excellent as the dwarf Alviano, an appropriately pinched, tense tenor. Elizabeth Connell is a sensitive Carlotta and Monte Pederson a headstrong, guttural Tamare.

Alfred Muff as Duke Adorno and Laszlo Polgar as the Podesta are also good, while there is fine playing by the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra under Lothar Zagrosek, though the Berlin Radio Choir sometimes sings scrappily.

☐ **NONO**
Intolleranza 1960
Stuttgart State Opera/Kontarsky
Teldec 4509 97304-2★★

LUIGI NONO'S *Intolleranza 1960* is an unyieldingly unbeautiful period piece, more political oratorio than drama. It is important to remember that it was written only 15 years after the end of the Second World War. It stands as a powerful work of pro-libertarian propaganda, though I would guess that it depends greatly on its visual elements. Its hero is an emigrant miner facing redundancy, racial discrimination, torture and, back in his homeland, natural disaster, though this is no conventionally dramatic sequence.

This live recording was made at a staged production in Stuttgart in 1993; coughs and stage noises occasionally intrude and the acoustic is not ideal. But to their credit, the performers, headed by David Rampy as the Emigrant and by Urszula Koszut as his woman companion and directed by that champion of 1960s modernism, Bernhard Kontarsky, maintain a real sense of purpose.

The work still has things to say to those of us for whom the slick showmanship of news broadcasts dilutes the reality of horrors still perpetrated by the human race.

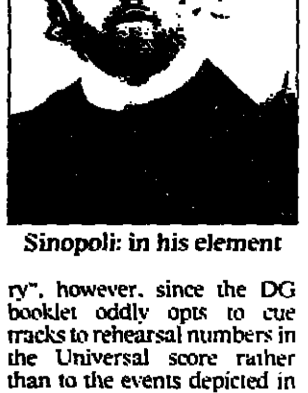
ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **SCHOENBERG**
Pelleas und Melisande; Verklärte Nacht
Philharmonia/Sinopoli
DG 439 942-2★★★

SCHOENBERG himself admitted that his first large-scale orchestral work, the tone poem *Pelleas und Melisande*, was flawed: it contained too much long-winded exposition, he told Zemlinsky. Yet this opulent score has much glorious music in it, and a coupling with the more familiar *Verklärte Nacht* in its orchestral version is an attractive proposition.

Not everything Sinopoli has done with the Philharmonia Orchestra over the years has been received rapturously. But here he seems to be in his element. Schoenberg's work is an altogether more red-blooded representation of Maeterlinck's drama than is Debussy's in his opera. And Sinopoli projects the grand Wagnerian emotions with immense power, while maintaining the dramatic thread at lower levels of tension too. (Many listeners may have difficulty following the "story", however, since the DG booklet oddly opts to cue tracks to rehearsal numbers in the Universal score rather than to the events depicted in the tone poem.)


Sinopoli: in his element

In addition to the classic Karajan recording, also available on DG, but at mid-price, there is a recent mid-price reissue of Barbirolli's warmly passionate reading on EMI's Matrix label, as well as the fine 1991 Boulez performance on Erato, available either on a single disc coupled with the Op 31 Variations or in a five-disc set (just issued) with music by Berio, Carter, Kurtag, Xenakis and others.

Nevertheless, in spite of the competition, the new Sinopoli version is highly recommendable, not least for the ravishing playing of the Philharmonia and the spacious recording. The *Verklärte Nacht* that follows is no less impressive and bears similar comparison with alternatives elsewhere.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

NEW ON VIDEO: Whimsical wanderings of a simpleton; carnivorous trees; over-egged *Tales of Hoffmann*

■ **FORREST GUMP**
CIC, 12, 1994

SIX Oscars do not make Robert Zemeckis's film a masterpiece, though they certainly make it a phenomenon, and a sign of America's need to wrap itself in a cosy blanket. Technically, there is much to wonder at: computer tinkering puts Tom Hanks's simpleton on history's front line with assorted presidents and John Lennon. But the excessive length brings problems (Gump's cross-country running could easily be cut), and it soon dawns that the film, like the hero, will never develop far in its whimsical journey across four decades.

■ **THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK**
FoxVideo, U, 1959

A BRITISH video premiere for the uncut print of the painstaking film about Jewish families hiding from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic. Handsome and worthy, though you need earplugs to survive Shelley Winters's performance as Mrs Van Daan, and Millie Perkins lets some of Anne Frank's character slip through her fingers. Directed by George Stevens, a long way from his beginnings as a comedy expert.

■ **THE NAVY VS THE NIGHT MONSTERS**
First Class Films, PG, 1966

"IT'S hard to imagine carnivorous trees that move on their own roots," says Mamie Van Doren, busty nurse at a South Atlantic military base. Hard indeed, especially when the trees look like overgrown seaweed. A terrible film, more dull than amusing, with the sad distinction of being photographed by Stanley Cortez, wizard cameraman of *The Magnificent Ambersons*.

■ **TALES OF HOFFMANN**
Warner, U, 1951

MARTIN SCORSESE rhapsodises over Powell and Pressburger's film of Offenbach's opera. Certainly it brings music and dance, theatre and cinema into a mighty fusion. But some may find scenes so encrusted with decorative effects in burnished Technicolor that they gasp for air and a few frames of black and white. Formidable talent went into the production: choreography by Frederick Ashton, the dancing feet of Robert Helpmann, Leonide Massine and Norma Shearer, and Sir Thomas Beecham's baton.

Wise or witless? Tom Hanks in the Oscar-winning title role of *Forrest Gump*, though the real star of the show is computer wizardry

■ **RASPUTIN — THE MAD MONK**
Lumiere, 15, 1965

HISTORICAL fact is treated gingerly, but Christopher Lee's Rasputin makes a fine fantasy villain, complete with wild hair, staring eyes, and a voice that could curdle blood. Pity about the hobnailed script, but director Don Sharp and the Hammer production team work small wonders with the sets left over from the previous shocker, *Dracula — Prince of Darkness*.

■ **SHADOWS OF OUR FORGOTTEN ANCESTORS**
Connoisseur, 12, 1964

SERGO PARADJANOV rose to fame with this whirling dervish of a film, a wild story of feuding and loving shot in the Carpathian mountains. Audiences worldwide relished its playful visual effects, mystical qualities, folk-art ambience and absence of official ideology: all reasons why the Communist authorities started to hound the director. The film still intoxicates.

■ **WRESTLING ERNEST HEMINGWAY**
Warner, 12, 1994

NO boxing movie, this: in some scenes all the action you get is Robert Duvall toying with a bacon sandwich. He plays a fastidious retired barber beached in Florida, whose quiet life changes with the arrival of Richard Harris, a roistering sea captain. This gentle film proves a generous showcase for the cast, but two hours is rather too long to be in the characters' company. With Shirley MacLaine; directed by Randa Haines.

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GARDENING

Cover your summer beds in glorious foliage

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, selects some favourite perennials with impressive leaf structure to fill out a bare-looking bed and have immediate impact

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Leaves of *Geranium maderense* overshadow the flowers

This is the time of year to enjoy the sight of your perennials pushing their way out of the bare earth. Their presence highlights gaps in the surrounding bed, but these can be filled with annuals, sown now, or for a more subtle and long-lasting effect with new perennials.

I advise a visit to a nursery to choose perennials which produce exciting foliage and will make an immediate impact in their first season. In subsequent years, they will grow into some of the most impressive plants in your garden.

There are some well-known hardy favourites, such as *Alchemilla mollis* (Lady's Mantle), which I grow for its fresh-green rounded leaves rather than the shower-like little yellow flowers that appear from June. But alchemilla is pretty rather than bold and will not make a decent clump for a year or two.

Hostas are another choice when strong foliage is called for. I prefer hostas in a watery setting, as marginal plants beside a pond or stream. They prefer these conditions, or at least a cool, shady spot, to a bed or border that is constantly hot and sunny throughout the summer.

Hot, sunny and sheltered areas are ideal for *Geranium maderense*, one of the few hardy geraniums whose attractive leaves overshadow the flowers. It originates in the warm Atlantic island of Madeira, but has been hardy in my garden in Kent for two, admittedly not very testing, winters. The leaves stay throughout winter, assuming a decorative reddish edging.

It is better to leave these geraniums, rather than to cut them down in autumn — only a sharp frost will make them droop. From May onwards, when the new growth is established, the plant really starts to perform. Firm stems grow rapidly, supporting deeply cut, rich-green leaves, which make a compact, domed crown. A good plant will easily grow to 1ft high by 1ft 6in across in its first year, and thereafter to 2ft by 3ft.

Elegant *Euphorbia mellifera* has long, apple-green leaves, with a creamy central vein, and attractive dome shape

Even more impressive is *Melianthus major*, a guaranteed show stopper. It originates in South Africa, where it is naturally evergreen. Although it can be cut down by winter cold, it usually grows back vigorously the next year. Last autumn I visited a garden in Norfolk where it has been hardy against a sheltered, southwest-facing brick wall for 15 years and is now a shrub nearly 6ft tall.

The deeply cut leaves of *M. major* are like a series of curving, serrated blades. They would be handsome enough if coloured a modest shade of green, but the silvery blue hue *is what makes this plant* impressive. I guarantee that it will enhance any bed or border. Planted now in a sheltered sunny spot, it should grow spectacularly in late summer and autumn.

In the past I have written about my favourite euphorbia, *E. mellifera*. Its growth rate may not match either *G. maderense* or *M. major* in the first year, but the elegance of its long, apple-green leaves, with a creamy central vein, and its domed shape more than compensates. A new plant can grow to 1ft 6in tall during its first season.

Another euphorbia which should be considered for adding distinguished foliage is *E. x martinii*. Evergreen, like *E. mellifera*, it enjoys a sunny position and makes a dense clump of green, with almost a purple tint.

If you are looking for more than a hint of purple foliage, then *Lobelia cardinalis* is a wonderful surprise for anyone used to the more conventional bedding lobelias. The rich, sometimes dark purple leaves are distinctly cut or lanceolate and form a rosette shape.

The plant looks dramatic when planted with blue or white. But remember that it produces small, brilliant red flowers on its stems in late summer which may not complement its neighbours. You could, of course, cut off the flower stems as they appear.

L. cardinalis is not really hardy and is best grown as a tender perennial: either protect the roots with a thick covering during winter or, better, lift the rootballs and over-winter them in a greenhouse. In March, divide them and put individual root pieces into pots ready for planting out in May, by which time the new leaves will be emerging strongly.

Any of the plants mentioned above can be bought and planted now but they will need regular watering through their first summer to perform at their best. Stately in their own right, they will fill the gaps in your borders and improve the effect of almost any flowering neighbour.

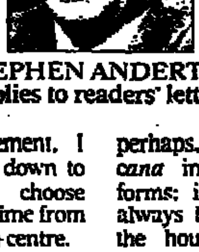
The silvery blue hue of the leaves make *Melianthus major* a guaranteed show stopper

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Spray shrub roses to minimise damage caused by disease and insects.*
- *Plant tomato seedlings in your greenhouse.*
- *Strawberry plants should be covered in straw under cloches.*
- *Use a barrier of ash or sharp grit to deter slugs from eating perennials.*
- *Prune flowering quinces (chaenomeles) and other spring-flowering shrubs immediately after flowering.*
- *Seedlings of winter vegetables, such as cabbage and Brussels sprouts, can be planted out.*

Use ash or grit to deter slugs

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q In February we bought a glossy-leaved camellia with promising red buds in a street market. We planted it carefully next to a sheltered west wall, and have been dismayed to watch it shed its leaves and then its buds. Is it dying or will it revive? — Gill Hopkins, Islington, London.

A Far too often, spring-flowering shrubs are grown under cover so that, as soon as the first warm day arrives, they can appear for sale unscathed by winter weather, looking full of promise. Unfortunately, like bedding plants, they can be planted out too early for their own good. In the case of a camellia, it is not likely to be the cold that kills the leaves and buds, but the shock of such a sudden change in climate, from indoors to outdoors. Bud drop after planting can occur on even the best of plants, but the leaves should never fall from a healthy plant.

It may be that your plant had its roots frozen and killed before you bought it. This happens much more easily in a pot than in the ground, of course. When the roots are dead, the plant cannot take up water, and so the apparently healthy plant gradually sheds its leaves and buds.

Unless you want to take the plant back to the stall and ask for a replacement, I would put the loss down to experience, and choose another one — this time from a nursery or garden centre.

Q We have a flat in central London with a sheltered west-facing balcony, 18ft by 3ft 6in. Can you suggest suitable plants? — Peter Roberts-Holmes, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

A A south or west-facing balcony in central London is going to be a hot spot in summer. So, unless you can guarantee regular watering in summer, I would look first to drought-resistant plants, which will survive a weekend unwatered. It will be perfect for evergreens such as variegated yuccas and bronze-leaved cordylines. Try a small bamboo, perhaps, or an *Agave americana* in plain or striped forms; in winter, you can always bring them close to the house or keep them under cover to avoid frosts.

Make sure you use a few big pots, rather than lots of little ones. They will look better and take less watering. Of course, a plant big enough to fill a large pot from the start will not be cheap, but it is worth the investment.

If you have railings, why not train a climber or two on to them? A tub of morning glories (*Ipomoea* 'Heavenly Blue') perhaps, or *Clematis florida* 'Sieboldii', which has a flower almost as complicated as a passion flower. If you want climbers to last the weekend unwatered, make sure they have a coarse, well-manured compost to get their feet into, preferably with some water-retaining gel crystals incorporated. For shrubs, try oleander, *Pittosporum tobira*, and *Melianthus major* (see above).

Q I have a 15ft beech hedge. Can I reduce it to a lower, more manageable level, or will it damage it? — K.R. Ashton, Wallasey, Merseyside.

A This is a good time for hard-pruning yew hedges, but it is getting late in the season to cut beech hard. I would wait until next February, then saw out the leaders to the desired height. Beech can be reduced sideways, too, to make it less thick, but again it is not as successful as with yew. Do not cut the side branches right back to the trunks, but take them back to the last, innermost, budded twigs, thinning as you go. The response is slow but sure. Feed the hedge with a balanced fertiliser to encourage growth.

- *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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GARDENING

Gardens to visit this weekend

☐ **Harlaxton Manor Gardens, Grantham, Lincolnshire (01476 592101)**

One mile from A1 on A607 Melton Mowbray road. Open April to October, daily except Mondays (open Bank Holidays), 11am-5pm. £2.50, children under 12 £1.25, concessions.

Alan Mason is well known for his gardening programmes on television. During the past three years he has taken up the challenge of restoring the gardens of this Victorian mansion. Approached by a straight drive which undulates gently for over a mile, Harlaxton is set up on a wooded hill, looking north over the Vale of Belvoir. The 6.5-acre walled garden is fascinating for its arrangement of towering, stone-capped brick walls, some forming the asymmetrical outer boundary, others free-standing within the enclosed area. Borders have been re-planted and old pear trees against the walls pruned back hard to restore their shape, and the lawns are divided by convex brick paths. Leaving the walled garden, the original ornamental gardens lie on a series of terraces to one side of, and behind, the house. Approached by broad flights of balustraded Ancaster stone steps, most areas are in the early stages of restoration. They were designed to reproduce the styles of continental gardens, and clearance of overgrown shrubberies has revealed the formal canal of a Dutch garden and the stone architecture of a classical Italianate garden. The clearance and restoration is of particular interest to the garden historian, while the scale of the house and its architectural surroundings will impress any visitor.

☐ **Wadhurst Park, Wadhurst, East Sussex**

Six miles southeast of Tunbridge Wells, right along Mayfield Lane off B2099, left by Best Beech pub, left at Riseden Road. Open tomorrow, 2-5.30pm. £2, children 50p.

Wadhurst Park, built by John Outram, is one of the most radical and striking modern country houses in England. It replaced a Victorian mansion on an elevated position overlooking parkland. The professional garden designer, Anthony Pasley, helped with the demanding task of making a garden which balanced with both the house and the landscape. Shallow terraces with patterned stone or brick edging and paths, groups of elegant birch trees and contemporary sculptures are effective on two sides of the house. Where the ground drops steeply away, paths lead back and forth along the bank through a woodland garden. The old Victorian winter garden at one end of the house was incorporated by Outram into his design and is now an impressive conservatory with orange and lemon trees in tubs, and exotic broad-leafed evergreen plants surrounding a pool. Near the entrance forecourt, the old brick-walled garden has been immaculately re-planned by Pasley with a central path and flower borders dividing rows of soft fruit and vegetables. There are espalier apple, pear and plum trees trained against the walls. The traditional walled garden is an intriguing contrast to the house and larger areas of the garden.

☐ **Eastgrove Cottage, Sankyns Green, near Shrawley, Little Witley, Worcestershire (01299 896389)**

At Sankyns Green, between Shrawley (on B4198) and Great Witley (on A443). Garden and nursery open April to July, daily except Tuesday and Wednesday, 2-5pm, closed August, open September 1-October 14, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 2-5pm. £1.50, children 20p.

Carol and Malcolm Skinner have created a cottage garden *par excellence* during the past 20 years, and built up a fine nursery from which visitors can buy beautiful plants. The garden surrounds the cottage, and presents an immaculate arrangement of borders overflowing with healthy plants, plus brick paths, small enclosures and constant surprises, such as a low drystone wall dotted with alpines. The remaining apple trees from an old orchard are pruned into a cup-like shape. Their blossom makes the backdrop to the lawn and borders immediately in front of the cottage. Euphorbias and aquilegias, such as deep purple 'Nora Barlow', are especially good at this time of year, and there are 15 varieties of aquilegia for sale in the nursery. Individual shrubs are positioned for structural impact among the perennials, none more striking at the moment than *Viburnum plicatum* 'Mariesii' with its layers of branches and white flowers, or *Cornus alternifolia* 'Argentea', similarly layered with outstanding silvery variegated foliage. Two sides of the house are draped in an enormous wisteria and below the garden is a small arboretum of ornamental trees.

☐ **Kilbryde Castle, Dunblane, Perthshire (01786 823104)**

Off A820, between Dunblane and Doune. Open tomorrow, May 21, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, 2-5pm, and by appointment. £2, children £1.50.

The 15th-century castle, rebuilt during the 1870s, makes an impressive centrepiece for this 20-acre garden, which combines large lawns and borders with a woodland water garden. The latter is at its best in spring and early summer, with large numbers of bulbs and an impressive collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. Much of the planting has been carried out since 1970 and further development is still going on, with a new water garden being constructed alongside Ardoch Burn.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

The garden at Eastgrove Cottage in Worcestershire combines borders, paths and small enclosures

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PUTNEY HEATH Stunning 3/4 bed semi located in exclusive Georgian style development 1/2 recs, lge kit, 2 baths, landscaped gdn & dbl gge £309,500 Kinleigh 0181 780 0033

WANDSWORTH COMMON Flat front terr hse C.1840 Orig feats. 2 dbl bed, recep, Kit/diner. S. Fac gdn. GCH F'Hold. £135,000. 0181 874 5612.

CLAPHAM
Between Commons.
Immaculate detached corner house 4/5 beds, 2 receptions, large kitchen, large garden 60' x 40'. GCH. nr Tube/ BR. Garage & extra parking for 3 cars. £300,000 neg.
0181 673 7295

WANDSWORTH SW18.
Near Common Immac 4 bed, 2 bath Vic. terr hse in quiet tree lined street, with excep maple/granite kit/family room Dble recep room with original features. Sth facing gdn *Quick sale reqd £247,500*
Tel: 0181 874 3380 or 0171 351 8858 (office).

PUTNEY
Modern end of terrace townhouse, 3/4 bdrms. 1/2 receps, bthrm, shr rm, patio/gdn, leading to communal gdns, gge & off/st. pkg. nr BR/tube. £185,000 f/hold. No agents please.
Tel: 0181 789 2885

RESIDENTIAL PRETTY SW11 SHOP/GALLERY
Work at home. Light sunny liv rm, french windows to 36' sth fac walled gdn. Fit quality kit, din rm, gdn studio, 3 beds, rf terr, courtyd. 27x12 shop. 16x7 office. Close buses & BR. Wandsworth rates. F/H. £200,000.
Tel: 0171 228 9344.

DULWICH

DULWICH PRIME POSITION
Exceptionally spacious mod det house. Carriage drive. Dble grge. 3 lge reception, 4 dble beds, 2 baths, 1 en suite, lge kit, laundry etc. GCH. Sauna. Secluded garden, many other amenities. Consent for Conservatory & 5th bed/ bath. FREEHOLD £450,000.
Tel/ Fax 0181 670 0085

CITY & WEST END

BARBICAN 1st flr two bed flat, sth facing recep. 200 yds Moorgate. £115,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000

BARBICAN E facing studio flat over landscaped podium Redecorated and new carpets £69,000 Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000

CITY & WEST END

BARBICAN 10th flr 4 bed flat facing north and west and with 24 hr porter. £175,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000

BARBICAN 2 bed flat on 5th, 6th & 7th flrs. Sth facing recep, sep dining area. £115,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000

BLOOMSBURY WC1 - Lge 2 bed apt. Bedford Court Mansion. lift. port. Freehold - £240,000 Call Sole Agents Copping Joyce 0171 836 2888

COVENT GARDEN WC2: Lge 2 bed pent priv/parking. twin balc. L/H - £275,000 Copping Joyce 0171 836 2888

FITZROVIA WC1: Spacious one bed 1st floor apt. Morwell St. Long L/H £132,000 Copping Joyce 0171 836 2888

TOWER HILL E1 Walk to work! Sunny, 1 bed flat, close to tube, all mod cons £68,000 No Agents 0117 942 4415.

WC1 BORDERS 1 bed 2nd flr conv. Long lse. nr tube £84,950 Banbury Heal 0171 404 3422

SHADWELL E1
DLR 1 stop to Bank. 3 bdrm (ft wdrb), diner/kit (fully-fitd), bathroom/power shower, carpeted, sec priv prkng. Bright modern flat, with beautiful view. Balcony overlooking Basin/Thames. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. £130,000.
tel/fax: 0171 702 3746

E8
Warehouse conversion in own grnd. Stylish 2/3 bdrm hse with gallery. Original beams, extensive open-plan design. Prvt balc. o'looks secluded gdn. Own pkg, very close City.
£120,000
0171 275 8023

MOLYNEUX ST W1
Modernised F/H Period hse. 4 beds. 1 bath e/s, 2 shwrs. 1 clk/rm, 2 recep rms. Kit/brkfst rm. larder, small rear paved gdn.
£315,000.
Tel: 0385 328 550.

BELGRAVIA & KNIGHTSBRIDGE

EBURY ST SW1 un mod 4 bed 2 bath recep large kit 6 yrs head lease £118,000 0171 581 8977

HANS ROAD, SW3 Third floor 2 dble beds. lge recep. kit/break. 1 bath. guest cloaks/pows shower room. Lift. L/H Approx 52 yrs Bargain £268,000. View today 0171 581 0864 - 0831 150 115 T.

LENNOX GARDENS, SW3. Patio flat 2 beds. 1 en-suite bath. 1 en-suite shower. guest cloaks. kit. Lge recep. small patio. L/H approx 21 yrs. £160,000. View today 0171 581 0864 - 0831 150 115 T.

PRINCES GATE, SW7. Patio flat 2 dble beds. 1 en-suite bath. 1 shower/cloak room. 3rd room study/dining room. Lge recep. kit. L/H 988 yrs £249,950. 0171 581 0864-0831 150 115 T.

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£105,950
Tel: 0171 828 7647
Tel: 0831 310421
Fax: 01256 701444

CHELSEA & KENSINGTON

CHELSEA CLOISTERS Sloane Ave 1 bed apts For sale from £115,000 Tel 071 584 5004.

NOTTING HILL W11 2 bed conv in period prop with W fac patio. rec sep kit bath £118,000 Leslie Marsh 0171 221 4806

KENSINGTON HIGH STREET
Bright, spac. Flt carpeted. 3 dble beds. 26' dble recep. 1 bath. 1 sh rm. Redecorated throughout. Kit. CH. CHW. 3rd flr lift. Portered PB block. Long lease. Reduced to £210,000
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CHELSEA & KENSINGTON

CHELSEA HARBOUR, SW10 - 2 bedroom flat in immaculate condition with views down to the River. Reception. kitchen, bathroom ensuite, shower room, terrace, underground parking spac. £222,500 L/H. 117 yrs. Tel 0171-351 2300.

CHELSEA 4th floor pb flat with a lift in the Little Boltons, 3 beds, 3 baths, dble recep, kit & dining. 42 year lease. £264,500 Call 0171 244 9088 No agents plse

CHELSEA HARBOUR, SW10 - Spacious 2nd flr flat with views down to the River. Reception, kitchen, 2 dble bedrms ensuite bathrms, sep clkrm, 2 balconies, underground parking space. L/H 117 yrs. £325,000. Harbour Estates 0171-351 2300

PROPERTY FIND - Property Search Services. Tel 071 584 8004.

PALACE MANSIONS W14 Lge 4 bed, 2 bath raised grd flr app. L/H approx 109 yrs Low outgoings, exc rental investment £185,000. View today 0171 581 0864-0831 150 115 T

SW7
Close Gloucester Rd. tube. 1 bed grd. flr. flat with own street entrance. Ideal pied-à-terre/London base for business person. Long lease and share F/H. Private sale.
£135,000
01432 351170

CHELSEA SW3
Southfacing 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom flat in elegant building. 5 mins Sloane Sq. Reception room overlooking sunny patio. Period features. Porter. 90 yr lease.
£272,500.
Tel: 0171 589 7597.

KINGS ROAD CHELSEA
Immac v. lge, 2 dble beds, lge lounge, fireplace, dining rm, chandalier, F/F kit, exc decor, lux accom
992 yr lease
£156,000 ovno
0171 731 8524
private sale

W11 MEWS
Stunning light f/hold in cobbled mews off Portobello. Opn pln recep 22' x 24', 2 bds e/suite, study, utility, guest w.c. lge gge
£265,000
071 727 4893

WESTMINSTER

HATHAWAYS: Ashley Gardens SW1 Spacious mansion flat 2/3 rec. 3/4 bed. 3 bath. cloak rm. sep WC. kit/breakfast. Lse 218 yrs + SOF OIRO £345,000 77. Buckingham Gate SW1 0171 222 3133.

MEDWAY ST SW1. Freehold Georgian style house (2 yrs old). 2 receptions. 3 bedrm. 2 bathrm. roof terrace £260,000 Hathaways 0171 222 3133.

PIMLICO
1 bedroom basement flat in Eccleston Square. Residents private garden. Close to Victoria Station. Private sale. £65,000.
Tel: 0171 828 6430

PIMLICO
1 bed, ground floor flat in residential street. Spacious reception with high ceiling, lots of bookshelves and original cornicing. Very appealing, must be seen. Residents' parking. Use of Warwick Square Gardens.
QUICK SALE £110,000ono
Telephone
0171 630 6576

RICHMOND & KINGSTON

RICHMOND PARK
Large detached freehold house in excellent location near East Sheen Gate. 5/6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, reception dining, 2 studies, family room, kitchen, utility, cloakroom. Garage, parking. South facing garden.
£695,000
0171 928 4362 (anytime)

LONDON PROPERTY

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ALL NEW INSTRUCTIONS

ACACIA ROAD
A period S/D house on 3 floors needing modernisation. 3/4 beds 2 baths. 3/4 receps kitchen/breakfast room, garage, front and rear gardens. 99 year lease. £875,000

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A Grade II Listed S/D house needing alteration Currently comprising a garden flat with 2 upper floors 4 beds, 3 baths, 2 kitchens, large recep front and rear gardens 99 year lease £650,000

QUEEN'S GROVE
A period S/D house, needing refurbishment. 4 beds 3 receps. kitchen, shower room garage, front and rear gardens. 99 year lease Offers in the region of £500,000

QUEEN'S GROVE
A period terraced house needing refurbishment, to provide family accommodation 4 beds, 3 receps, study, kitchen, bathroom. 97 year lease. Offers in the region of £330,000

BELSIZE ROAD
A 4 storey period house currently split as 2 maisonettes each flat comprises 2 beds recep kitchen and bathroom Needs refurbishment. Freehold. Offers in the region of £200,000

MAIDA VALE
A Grade II Listed S/D house in need of refurbishment. Could provide 5 beds 3 receps, kitchen and 4 basement rooms. Front & rear gardens. Garage for 2 cars 99 year lease. £450,000

25 St Johns Wood Park, London NW8 6QR
0171 483 2972
Monday - Friday: 9 - 5.30

HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE

HAMPSTEAD VILLAGE NW3
Superbly situated, well-proportioned Victorian house, period features throughout. Totally refurb by owners. Excel dec order. GCH, alarmed, 4/5 beds, 2/3 receps, lge kit diner, galleried dress rm, preny, well-stocked paved gdn to rear, roof terr, cellar. F/hold £535,000.
0973 111867 or 0181 318 9923

HAMPSTEAD.
5 mins from Heath. Unique freehold house with garage & gardens. 3 beds
As featured in house and gardens.
Immaculate condition. For quick sale
£369,000
Tel 0171 435 8319

BERKSHIRE

COOKHAM DEAN
Large Tudor house in superb elevated location 5 dble bedrooms 3 bathrooms 4 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, study, double garage. Set in ½ acre 10 mins M40 and M4
£395,000
Tel: 01628 482 079

WINDSOR 1860
Regency style 4 storey town house, 4/5 bedrooms. Master en-suite with balcony. Sep shower room + wc. Large recep, sep dining room. Original fireplaces. Large kit, family room/ playroom. 70' garden backing on to 'The Long Walk' with views of the Castle. 5 mins Centre & BR. 3 miles M4. £295,000.
0973 186877

BERKSHIRE
17th C thatched cottage with exposed beams. GCH, kitchen, dining room, lounge, study, bathroom, 3 beds, dble thatched garage with utility room, ⅔ acre in the middle of fields. Easy access M4, J12/13 & BR.
£190,000
Tel 01734 713927

NEWBURY AREA
Wing of 20th Century Elizabethan style mansion. 2 beds, 2 baths, kitchen, utility, south facing lounge, fine uninterrupted views for 20 miles. Close to M4, Airport, Rail, London & Country activities
£157,000
Tel/Fax 01635 201013

TAPLOW
Village life-21 mins Paddington! Large 17thC/Victorian character house: Beams, high ceilings, fully renovated, 6 receps, kit/bkfst, 5 bedrooms, 3 bath, inc nanny suite. Self contained cottage: 2 rms, k & bth. Suit family; working from house. Excellent schools. Close Nat.Trust & Thames. M40 J2. M4 J7.
£385,000.
Fax: 01628 74719
Tel: 0860 479859

BEDFORDSHIRE

HARROLD
17th century cottage with separate self contained annexe
Grade II Listed stone cottage 3 bedrooms, 3 receptions, large kitchen. Garage. Picturesque village just north of Bedford. (London 1 hour) good schools
£140,000
Tel: 0171-315 4397 or 0378 029886

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

SUPERB THAMES RIVERSIDE PROPERTY
Prestigious position. 1 acre garden. Swimming pool. Sauna etc. 6 bedrooms. 3 reception rooms. Granny/staff s/c flat. 30 mins drive from Heathrow.
Offers with bankers guarantee only will be considered in region of £600,000.
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Fax: 01628 487425

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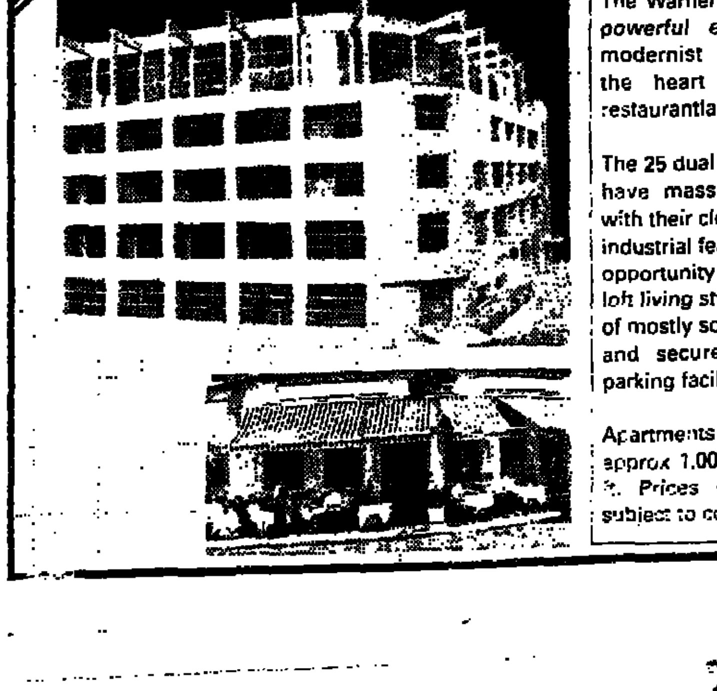
COTSWOLDS

THE ANSWER TO A DREAM
[illegible] Grade II Listed. 17th C [illegible]. Prime high street location. Large 4 bed accommodation. Rear access - off street parking. Pretty walled garden. [illegible]
Tel: 01666 504043

LONDON PROPERTY



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In picturesque village nr Cirencester. 2 bed + 1 bed annexe, rec, kit/brkfst rm, bth, gdn/courtyard.
£75,000
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Truly unique and distinctive, new architect designed SW facing stone house in delightful village setting of unspoilt stone barns, close church, school and pub. Built to excep high standard. 4/5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 recep, galleried study, f/fully kitchen, dble garage and gdn. Easy reach Bath, Bristol and Cheltenham. M4, Swindon BR 20 mins (London 50 mins)
£245,000
01666 577380

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

BUCKDEN
Spacious family hse. 1 ml fr thriving historic village. 45 mins Kings X. 6+ bds, 2 bths, 4 recs, Aga, CH, 2.24 acrs. Gdn. Fruit/veg. Tree/shrub brdrs, mature trees & paddock. Out bldngs + coach hse. Rural views. Nr Grafham Water & good schls. £280,000.
01480 810339

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CAMBRIDGE/M11 12 mls
HUNTINGDON/A1 5 mls
KINGSCROSS 50 mins
Unique setting o'looking River Ouse & watermeadows. 1958 architect built det. hse. Spacious: 4 bds, 2 bths, 3 rec, 24' kit/bkfst, laundry, workshop, 19' x 18' dbl gge, roof terrace, lge secluded gdn, raised patio.
£229,500 (no chain)
Phone 01480 464239

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COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO. A prof personal service for purchasers 01284 704422

SUFFOLK/Norfolk bdr. River Waveney Valley. 18 miles from coast. Splendid 16th century Grade II Listed farmhouse of relaxed charm & character. 3 rec, 6 beds, attics, dairy etc. 1 acre, bldngs, no neighbours. Ref 3097 £175,000. Thos Wm Gaze & Son Diss 01379 641341

SUFFOLK
Nr. Bury St Edmunds.
Charming, quiet 18th Century cottage (former farmhouse) surrounded by fields. 3 bedrooms, 2 recept., conservatory, garage. Approximately 1½ hours London - a good weekend retreat.
£92,000.
Tel 0181 991 0946

BEAUTIFUL FAMILY HOUSE
NR NORWICH
3/4 beds, all en-suite. Or retirement luxury 2 storey apt. + 4 separate studio apts (income of £10,000pa). Tranquil setting. 1 acre + more? £149,000.
0836 331614

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Nr. GLOUCESTER.
Grade II. 18th C, imposing & beautifully restored Court House. 7 beds, 3 baths, 3 receps, hall, kitchen (27' by 17'), outbuildings, walled garden, orchard. Rural position with extensive views.
£325,000
Tel 0171 603 7811 or 0531 670241

HANTS., DORSET, AND I.O.W.

SHERBORNE 8 mls S open country, 4 bed mod det house, small garden £145K 01300 348 384

POTWELL
West Liss
Extremely attractive modernised 17th century house of historical interest in picturesque conservation area. 4 large bedrms, reception, dining, kitchen, kitchen diner, *exposed beams & fireplaces.* Well planned gardens of 3/4 acre. 15 mins Portsmouth/Guildford, 45 mins Heathrow. Offers £245,000
Tel: 0703 268068.

SWANAGE
Luxury penthouse apartment, outstanding sea views overlooking Swanage Bay. 3 dbl bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, kitchen, laundry room. Access to beach.
OIRO £110,000 includes modern brick-built beach hut.
Pond & Company
01929 426308

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HERTFORDSHIRE

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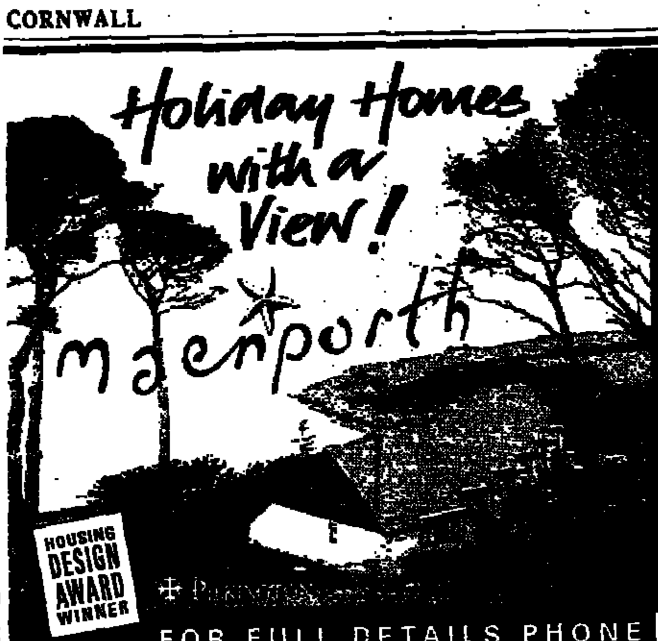
Detached house, 4 beds, 3 bath, 4 reception, fitted kitchen/utility, dble garage, 2/3 acre corner wooded plot, private roads, BR 1 mile, Kings X 25 min, M25 15 min, A1M 6 min.
Open viewing 7 May 11-5pm or by appt
OIRO £259,000
01438 716817

CORNWALL



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SUBSTANTIAL imposing home situated on prestigious private Moor Park Estate in North West London with fully air conditioned wing. Offering 3 reception rooms, games room, exercise room, study, 2 cloakrooms, kitchen/breakfast rm, utility, 6 bedrooms, 2 ensuite bathrooms, family bathroom, self contained staff flat comprising living room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom, extensive grounds with tennis court and swimming pool. Offers in excess of £1million Corbett Altman 01923 823587

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18C cottage on banks of trout river on English/Welsh border close to Offa's Dyke. Sitting rm, dining rm, kitchen, 2 bdrms & bthrm. Very attractive garden.
£76,000
Ring: 01446 774772 (aft.6)

RURAL WORCESTER
4 miles south of Worcester
Substantial listed property set in almost 2 acres with open views *Easy access to M5 and Midlands.* Three good reception rooms, b'fast kitchen, study, workroom & laundry 7 bedrooms & two bathrooms. Stable block
Guide price £285,000
TEL 01905 820697

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New Gateway to Europe
Secluded Grade II, Georgian country property, set in 3 acres. More land possible. Six beds, 3 bathrooms, Jacuzzi, 3 reception, craftsman built kitchen, 2 utilities. Immediately available M'way, R'way, Humberside Airport 15 mins
£285,000
01652 652495

NORTH EAST

NORTHUMBERLAND
Stone det res in village. Attrac conversion. Suit exec. Spec lounge/rafters, gallery bedrm, dress rm/2nd bed. Pleasant din area/kit. Gch. Rural living. Nr A69/A1M, Newcastle & Airpt, Sunderland. F/H. £95,000.
0191 271 1911 office hrs

TANGLEWOOD WINDLESTONE PARK RUSHYFORD
Luxurious entry property, conserv. area, acre walled gdns of former Eden Family Estate. 4 bds, 2 bths, 3 car gge complex, ideally placed for Durham, Teeside, Darlington, Lakes/Dales. £240,000
01388 720310

NORTH WEST

LAKE DISTRICT
Home of Wordsworth, Ruskin & Beatrix Potter
Elegant 17thC Country house with magnificent views. Southerly aspect. Beautiful & tranquil setting. Fully furnished guest house or private use. 7 bedrooms all en suite; a home with an income.
Must be seen
£380,000
Tel/Fax 015394 36311

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Delightful woodland location in Parbold Village just ½ hr from M'chester, L'pool, S'port & Preston. M6 3 mls. BR station. Superior det. 5 bed/2 bath executive house with dble det. garage, boil clks, 3 reception rms, Neff/Graham fitted out in kitchen, fir. utility, s/facing well stocked rear garden.
£210,000 No chain
Tel: 01275 464209.

SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH BORDERS
Newly built 5/6 bedroom house set on secluded 1 acre woodland site with views to Cheviot Hills. Exposed beams, open fires. Sitting room, dining room, country eat in kitchen. Garage. Nr. River Tweed & Lammermoor. Edinburgh 45 mins, London 3½ hrs.
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Tel: 01727 831008

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BRISTOL
Redlands.
Attractive Victorian house with original features, GCH, 5 bedrms, 3 reception, kitchen/diner, large office/playroom, workshop. OSP. Patio & garden.
£184,000.
Tel: 0117 9445034.

SOMERSET & AVON

HISTORIC parsonage, impressive 5 bed prop. £150k. Also new 4 bed character hse in old walled gdn. £139,500. Both Crewkerne. 01460 73516

SURREY

COUNTY HOME SEARCH CO Professional, personal, independent service for purchasers. Brochure 01276 671144.

BLETCHINGLEY
N Surrey Downs. Rural setting yet 4 mls J8/M25, 2 mls Lon/Brighton BR. V spacious attached Victorian Coach house. 4 beds, 3 baths, drawing rm, dining rm, kit/bfast rm. Excellent decorative order to include designer curtains, fitted carpets, Victorian fireplace etc. Gdn and gge. £190,000.
Tel: 0171 8371898 (w) 01883 346445 (h)

LOVELY Tudor style house (1927) in quiet location, Fetcham, Surrey. 5 lge bedrms, 4 bathrms & sauna rm. V. large integral double garage. Mature landscaped garden. London 42 mins. M25 2 miles. £375,000. Call Owner 01372 372985

SURREY HILLS
C15th, 5 bed period hse, central vill loc. Fully modernised with 3 recep (2 inglenooks), f/ kit with Aga. Cellar games room used as gym, with sauna. 2 bath (1 en suite). Sth facing sun terrace overlooking secluded, mature 1/3 acre gdn, gdn workshed. Garage. £310,000.
Tel: 01483 268799 (eves) 0831 098028 (days)

SURREY/KENT
Tatsfield near Westerham. 5 bedrooms, 4 stables. About 4 acres. Recently built 3 bedroom detached Bungalow. 2 bed detached, superior quality Log Cabin. Double detached garage. Area of outstanding natural beauty.
£296,000.
Tel: 01959 571584

ESHER
Distinctive contemporary architect designed home in unique end of cul-de-sac lakeside setting.
Feed the swans and ducks from your window! Spacious accomm. 34ft entertaining area, 25ft fun room, 4 dble bed, 2 bath, pine kit, utility room, htd pool, sauna, changing rm, dble gge, garden.
£349,950
Tel: 01372 469444

UNIQUE
Beautifully presented 6 bedroom house in Cheam, in immaculate condition throughout, 4 reception, 2 bathroom, 3 clks, large Poggenpohl kitchen, sep. utility rm, many features. Set in 1¼ acres scenic gardens, including building plot for 5/6 bed house. Secluded quiet location. Easy access A3/M25.
£985,000.
Tel: 0181 770 1255

SUSSEX

ITCHENOR In a prime location close to the sailing club & harbour, attractive detached family house with its own detached timber built cottage and lovely 0.46 acre gardens. Price guide £275,000. Henry Adams and Partners 01243 533377

LEWES E Sx. Superb lge roomed 12 yr old property with magnificent views over Downland to coast. 4 beds, 2 baths, large dining rm, cloakrm, kitchen, utility rm, double garage. Must be seen. £199,500. No chain. A Wycherley 01273 473329

WEST WITTERING On The Strand with direct access to the foreshore. 1930's 6 bedroom detached house with stunning views of The Channel and Solent. Tennis court. 0.9 acre P.G. £400,000. Henry Adams and Partners 01243 533377.

CONVERTED BARN GRADE II
Picturesque village of Ovingdean Conservation area close to Downs. Brighton Marina 5 mins. Feature 32' lounge, 16' vaulted beamed ceiling, inglenook Fireplace, dble garage, 3 beds, 2 bath, sep w/c gch, dble glazed, surrounded by flat mature gdn.
Private sale £187,000
Tel: 01273 301075.

NEAR PETWORTH
UPPERTON
Overlooking village cricketground. Spacious period house. Superb views to Downs & over N.T.Park. Excellent order 2/3 receps. 3/4 beds, bath, shower, kitchen, utility, garage, garden.
01730 812357

OVINGDEAN VILLAGE
Conservation area. Set back from road, 3 bed house, 'Clockhouse', 3 cloakrooms, shower room, family bathroom, 2 separate garages, stable, large tack room or office, enclosed front and back gardens, 3 mins Brighton Marina, 10 mins B'ton BR, 7 mins B'ton bypass. Entrance onto South Downs Way
Offers in region of £200,000
Tel: 01273 305966

BEAUTIFUL MARINE HOUSE
With prvt beach, in unique sit. Extensive sea views, 3 rec, 4 beds, 3 bth, 2 kit, 2 gge, GCH, DG.
OIRO £375,000
01273 414766

WALES

Pembrokeshire village
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هكذا من الأصل

While you are on holiday, housesitters will do the dusting and keep the burglars away

Home is where the sitter is

People use holidays for rest and recuperation, as a time to relax on a foreign beach or trek up a mountain. But holidays are also a time for wondering whether burglars or squatters have made themselves comfortable in your absence, and whether your neighbour has bothered to feed the cat.

Companies such as Homesitters and Housewatch aim to alleviate the worry of leaving your home for *any length of time.* For a basic fee of about £18 per day, your house will be occupied for about 20 hours a day, *plants watered, surfaces* dusted and pet parrots pampered.

The service is fundamentally a *security provider, but it also means* that a house can be kept "ticking over". However, some householders have other reasons for using the service. "A lot of people have builders or decorators in when they're away, and employ a housewatcher to keep an eye on things," says Moira Hampton, director of Housewatch. "Some people ask us to do the painting and decorating ourselves, but we have to decline."

At Universal Aunts, an agency based in London which also hires out cooks and domestic help, people have been known to ask for long-term sitters for their owls, or even a herd of sheep. Generally, though, in these security-conscious *times, home owners want* to feel that they have a sporting chance against the risk of burglary and *vandalism when they* are away.

Homesitting companies try to match the client to the sitter, and either *side* can veto the other before an arrangement is finalised. Sitters will walk dogs and perform heavier-duty tasks, such as gardening, but this tends to be a *private* agreement and is discussed with the company first. "Some clients *have an elderly relative who is* staying in the house in their absence and needs non-medical care. We can find sitters that are willing to do this, and they sort out the specifics and the extra money themselves," says Adele Barclay, director of Homesitters.

Two areas where the homesitting market is expanding are probate *situations* (where a relative has *died leaving a house unoccupied* for many months before it can be sold) and the "dual property syndrome" (where home owners move but have been unable to sell their original property). "I think people are getting more nervous about leaving homes empty," Ms Barclay says. In these circumstances, companies arrange for long-term sitters *to occupy a property, which helps* to ensure that the house does not fall into neglect or disrepair before finally being sold.

In addition, homesitting can save money elsewhere, as some insurance companies now offer reduced premiums to those who use such a security service.

As for the sitters, most are over 40 and, before they are signed up, *they have to provide three references* — one from a previous employer. Many are accompanied by their partner, *who is also* scrutinised. In addition to the flat fee, the home owners generally pay the sitters' travel expenses and stock up the larder, while the company gives them a few pounds a day for pocket money.

Jean Nixon, 57, and her husband, Morris, from Hertfordshire, have travelled the country setting *alarms, watering plants and feeding* pets in other people's houses for the past two years.

So what is the attraction of doing the household chores for a stranger when you hate doing them in your own home? "It's nice to have a change," Mrs Nixon says. "Often *you can choose the time of year to* go to a certain area, and you do get out and about. Often it's just a *break. It was odd at first being in* someone else's home, but you get used to it." The money is not the main incentive, but most sitters welcome the few pounds a day spending money.

And who homesits for the *homesitters? Some employees are* retired and live in sheltered accommodation, but most rely on the *goodwill of friends and neighbours.*

But if your local neighbourhood watch can do the trick, why pay for a *homesitting service at all?* A couple from Hertfordshire who have employed homesitters regularly over the past five years say the extra reassurance is worth the cost.

"We *like the thought of someone* being in our house," they say, "and we know that our cats aren't just *fed twice a day, but have a* comforting human presence." Many sitters and clients form firm friendships, with *sitters* returning year after year to look after the same homes.

What happens if a house is burgled or a pet dies? "These things are bound to happen sometimes," Ms Barclay says. "But we have *calculated that we reduce the* likelihood of burglary by 92 per cent, and pets receive just as much *attention as if their owners were* there. However, we cannot stop nature taking its course."

KATHRYN KNIGHT

No need for kennels: housesitters will keep your animals in the lifestyle to which they are accustomed

FACT BOX

Most homesitting agencies offer a national service. All prices exclude VAT.

- **Homesitters, Buckland Wharf, Buckland, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP22 5LQ (01296 630730). £18 per day, plus between 80p and £2.50 per pet per day. New clients pay a joining fee of £25.**
- **Housewatch, *Little London,* Berden, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 1BE (01279 777412). From £19.10 per day. *£20.20 for the care of up to* four cats; £21.20 for one dog and two cats. Specialised caretaking *on large properties is* about £34 per day.**
- **Home and Pet Care, PO Box 19, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7AL (01697 478515). £17 per day, plus £2 per dog and 75p per cat per day.**
- **Universal Aunts, PO Box 304, *London* SW4 0NN (0171-738 8937). From £17 per day.**
- ***Country Cousins,* 10a Market Square, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1EX (01403 210415). £42.30 a week agency fee: £100 a week for the sitters.**

Northamptonshire: The Mill House, Aynho. Period mill house in 33 acres of formal gardens, woodlands and paddocks, with a two-acre lake, stable block, garaging *and* heated swimming pool. Five bedrooms, three bathrooms, four reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room and cellar. One bedroom annexe. About £695,000 (Knight, Frank & Rutley, 0171-629 8171).

FOR SALE

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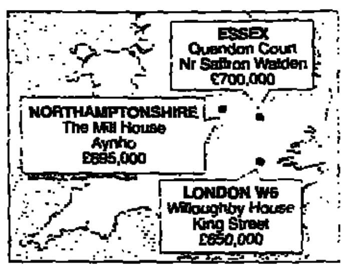
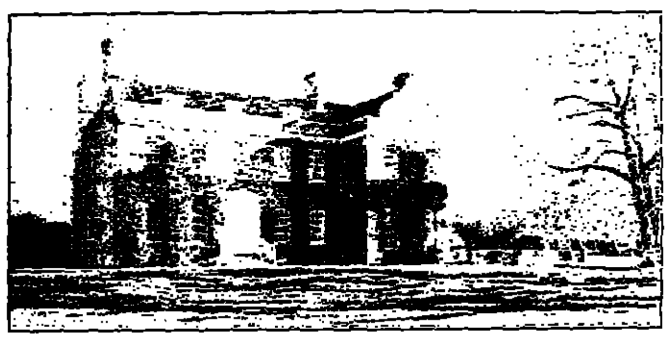


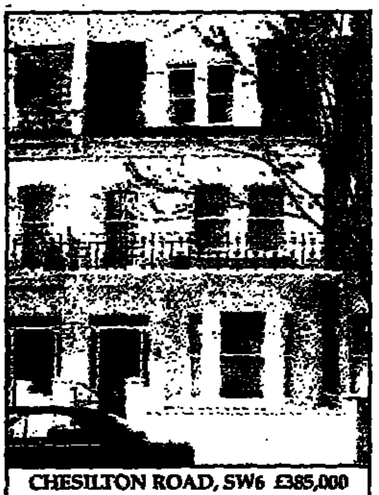


Essex: Quendon Court, near Saffron Walden. Grade II listed Georgian house in ten acres of beautiful gardens, parkland and paddocks. The house has six bedrooms, four attic rooms, three bathrooms, four reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom and cellars. There is also a staff flat, separate office building and garaging for three cars. Around £700,000 (Savills, 01245 269311).

London: Willoughby House, King Street, W6. *Four-storey* detached house with 70ft rear garden and garage. Five bedrooms, three reception rooms. About £650,000 (Foxtons, 0181-995 1221).

CHERYL TAYLOR

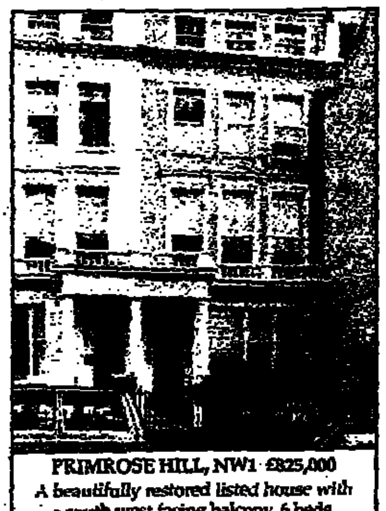
RIVERCOURT ROAD, W6 £495,000
Near the River, an immaculate Victorian semi-detached house. 4 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, conservatory, kit, clkrm, garden, s/c basement flat. Freehold
KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705



CHESILTON ROAD, SW6 £385,000
On the west side of a popular street, a well presented house. 5 beds, 2 baths, double recep, kit/dining rm, cellar, 25ft west facing garden. Freehold
FULHAM: 0171-731 4223

PUTNEY, SW15 Guide £650,000
An unusual, architect-designed house circa 1938. 4/5 beds, 2 baths, open plan recep, kit, study/bed 5, double garage, gardens, driveway. Freehold
WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172

EATON MEWS STH, SW1 £625,000
A beautifully appointed house between Eaton and Chester Square. 3 beds, 3 baths, recep, study/*sitting* rm, kit, laundry, clkrm, garage. Lease to 2050
BELGRAVIA: 0171-730 9854



PRIMROSE HILL, NW1 £825,000
A beautifully restored listed house with a south west facing balcony. 6 beds, 2 baths, shower rm, 3 receps, study, kit/b'fast rm, paved garden. Freehold
ST JOHN'S WOOD: 0171-722 5556

PULBOROUGH RD, SW18 £225,000
A modernised and extended house with a 100ft west facing garden. 4 beds, bath, shower rm, 2 receps, kit, clkrm, conservatory. Freehold
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North London 0171-722 3336 Wimbledon & Surrey 0181-946 9447
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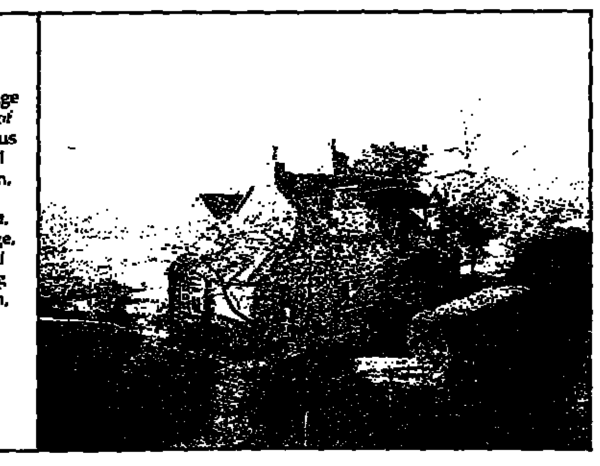
GLOUCESTERSHIRE – Near Cheltenham Price Guide: £175,000
An elegant first floor flat in an 18th century Grade II listed house. 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, *en suite* shower room, drawing room, kitchen/breakfast room. Garage, use of tennis court, swimming pool and gardens of about 6 acres.
CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
Fulmer
A fine ground flr apartment in a listed house with superb *recreational facilities.* 3 beds, bath, shower rm, large recep, kit, garage. Use of tennis courts, swimming pools, gymnasium, etc. Communal gdns & security gates.
Price Guide: £260,000
HEAD OFFICE: 0171-493 4106

BERKSHIRE
Burghclere
In a delightful village *three miles south of* Newbury, a spacious cottage with rural views. 4 beds, bath, shower rm, hall, 2 *receps, study,* kit, playrm, dble garage, gardens. Potential annexe: bedsitting rm, shower/clkrm, kit.
Price Guide: £205,000
NEWBURY: 01635 523225



BERKSHIRE
Hamstead Marshall
A modern house in an elevated position with views over open country towards the Downs. 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 *receps,* kit, garage, grounds, paddock.
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An elegant south *facing ground flr flat* in a listed mansion in a parkland setting. 3 beds, shower rm, bath, 31ft recep, clkrm, kit/b'fast rm, private terrace, garage, communal gardens of 2 acres. Lease 999 years from 1987
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NEW IN PAPERBACK

■ GOOD DAUGHTERS
INDIFFERENT HEROES
WELCOME STRANGERS
By Mary Hocking
Virago, £6.99 each

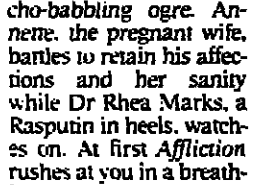
This marvellous trilogy follows the lives of a London family from the depression years of the 1930s, through the war and into the beginning of the Cold War period. The Fairleys are of the educated working class: Mr Fairley, Methodist lay preacher and stern but loving father of three daughters, is head of an elementary school in Acton, while his children (at some sacrifice on the part of their parents) attend a day school for girls in Holland Park. Hocking's complex canvas pictures two extraordinary decades and their effects on the lives and views of ordinary people. Her characters are drawn with sure but delicate strokes, and even the most minor ones rise breathing from the page.

■ THE REST OF LIFE
By Mary Gordon
Bloomsbury, £5.99

Gordon's seriousness in these three novellas is demanding, but her narratives contain sharp observations. Three women tell their stories: a social worker in love with a priest, a doctor living with a travelling journalist, an old woman who can't bear to tell her son about the most important event in her life. Gordon's emphasis is on the thin line between damage and health, and on the elusiveness of both innocence and happiness.

■ AFFLICTION
By Fay Weldon
Flamingo, £5.99

A sulphurous attack on the new religion of psychotherapy, this novel tells of a marriage pulled apart when the husband falls under the sway of a predatory therapist (or rapist as Weldon has it). Spicer is the husband who mutates from decent daddy to venomous, psycho-babbling ogre. Annette, the pregnant wife, battles to retain his affections and her sanity while Dr Rhea Marks, a Rasputin in heels, watches on. At first *Affliction* rushes at you in a breathless staccato, but as the pace flags so the neat triangle of emotions (sympathy, anger, hate) crumbles. Annette's passivity becomes wearisome Spicer's rantings seem comic, and the implication that Dr Marks is a fair example of her profession is insulting.



■ WITH ONE LOUSY FREE PACKET OF SEED
By Lynne Truss
Penguin, £5.99

Fiction proves dafter than life in this send-up of an imaginary gardening magazine. A dog-eared columnist gets caught up in a farcical scenario involving rude letters, garden sheds, and suspected murder. Soon the entire staff of *Come Into The Garden* are letting it all hang out at the Devon headquarters of their alarming new proprietor, a Machiavellian computer prodigy. The novel has eccentric characters, some good jokes and an amiable thread of mania.

● *Hazel Leslie, Jake Michie, Alison Burns*

No business for a book lover

Small bookshops should not bother with new books, **Giles Gordon** advises

Readers of this column are most likely addicted to bookshops, antiquarian as well as new. On Tuesday, I found myself in Stamford, Lincolnshire, a pretty town of 18,000 inhabitants. BBC Television's *Middlemarch* was filmed there, and small wonder. Remarkably, Stamford harbours four or five second-hand bookshops, one being Staniland (Booksellers), established some years ago by Meaburn Staniland. He took early retirement from Penguin, where for many years he was chief blurb writer and a wonderfully urbane figure.

He died a few years ago, and the shop is now presided over by his nephew, Barry Valentine-Ketchum, who was previously an engineer. He asked me whether it was true that the chain booksellers received gigantic discounts from publishers. Although Valentine-Ketchum sells few new books, apart from local publications, he had hoped that Penguin would allow him to continue the arrangement whereby Staniland received books such as Pevsner's majestic *Buildings of England* series at a discount of 50 per cent, enabling the shop to sell a few copies. Penguin was not amused: Staniland's turnover is only just sufficient to keep Valentine-Ketchum going rather than the the publisher's expensive sales department.

Valentine-Ketchum asked my advice whether he should open a shop for the sale of new books in Stamford. I was shiftily non-committal.

Maybe euphoria had gone to his head, as last Saturday the Georgian Society had descended on Stamford and on Staniland and a multitude of interesting books were removed from the shelves in return for cash. Certainly the shop's stock is mouth-watering.

I was touched by the degree of innocence expressed by Valentine-Ketchum with regard to publishers' discounting policies. It is unlikely that the sales panjandrums of the congolomerates would turn up in Stamford to take Valentine-Ketchum out to a slap-up lunch and offer to give him 50 per cent discount on hardbacks, 55 per cent on paperbacks. If he ran 30 bookshops or more, they would certainly do that, and probably solicit his opinion as to what they should publish as well.

Undoubtedly, Valentine-Ketchum should not open a shop for the exclusive sale of new books if he wishes to do as well as he does with his antiquarian stock. Nor, presumably, should the other antiquarian booksellers of Stamford.

Meanwhile, in another part of the bookselling thicket. Asda will next week be selling at a knock-down price John le Carré's new novel, *Our Game*. The fat bookselling chains are sulking in their tents and have, it is said, ordered infinitely fewer copies of the novel than they would have done had it been published as a net book by Hodder Headline. Hodder Headline is currently being painted as the baddie of British publishing for having broken away from the strictures of the Net Book Agreement, supposedly still in place so that the likes of independent booksellers in, say, Stamford can afford to continue trading.

How dare British booksellers, who have been so inefficient for so long, become so self-righteous about the antics of publishers who are trying to sell more books? They are equally twitchy about anything innovative which books clubs try to do to extend the constituency of book buyers.

As is constantly pointed out, people buy books for a diversity of reasons, at different kinds of outlets, and at all sorts of prices. The same applies to most products. If le Carré's new novel can be sold at £16.99, which is the recommended retail price, let it be; and if some people will pay only £12.99 for it, let them buy it at that, provided everyone makes a modest profit.

Increasingly, you only find the books you want (those published more than a few weeks ago) in antiquarian bookshops; or at good old Foyles, where you always find them. It is not fashionable to point this out.

Family ties that chafe

They make good copy, your mum and dad, **Valerie Grove** discovers

■ THE GRANTA BOOK OF THE FAMILY
Granta Books/Penguin, £15.99

I WOULD rather read a great writer on his own family than almost any fiction he invents. Even Tolstoy and Dickens had sadder, truer stories to tell, of love and death and the whole damn thing, inside their own families. "Nature, that great tragic dramatist, knits us together by bone and muscle," wrote George Eliot, "and divides us by the subtler web of our brains; blends yearning with repulsion; and ties us by our heartstrings to the beings that jar us every movement." Everyone knows this, but it takes a writer to tell it.

So this anthology of extracts is a feast of exasperation, tolerance, expiation, guilt. Raymond Carver on his hopeless failure of a father, living in a trailer; Angela Carter on her amiable journalist father; Blake Morrison on his less lovable doctor father; Ian Jack's father, Scottish working-class hero; Saul Bellow's father, once wealthy in St Petersburg, now in the junk business. No generation gap will ever be wider than that between parents born in the 19th century and their children of the 20th. Leonard Michaels is an American giant; his father a tiny Polish Jew, happy to be a barber in New York: "My father never owned a car or flew in an airplane . . . I was in London, returning from three months in Paris, when he died."

Fathers, however feckless, predominate; mothers are more shadowy. Susan J. Miller has to deal with her acidhead father, while her mother sits "collapsed amid the disorder of a household she was too overwhelmed to manage". Doris Lessing was born fighting her mother ("I cannot think of a person less likely than myself to please her") and felt paralysed by angry pity as her mother took to bed with a breakdown. Still, "it was my mother who introduced me to the world of literature into which I was about to escape from her". Michael Ignatieff ("I don't believe in the natural force of blood ties") watches a mother whose memory is "a crammed shoebox of treasures from a full life" gradually lose the capacity to remember the pot she put on the stove.

Unconditional affection is assumed to be a given of family life; but mature affection is quite unlike the meaningless infatuation bestowed on babies. So Peter Carey's lyrical letter to his newborn son bores me; it is a cliché. Family life is the cold reality of many melancholy autumns, over which love sometimes triumphs. This collection includes monumental tragedies: William Wharton's terrible tale of his daughter and her family wiped out in a fire; Gary Gilmore's brother's story of their mother, Betty, beaten by her husband and helplessly watching two sons grow up with a deadly destiny.

When Granta published a *Family* collection in 1991, it titled it with Philip Larkin's best-known lines about what your mum and dad do to you. The less familiar last lines of the poem ("Get out as quickly as you can/And don't have any kids yourself") recommend an escape that few manage. The result is tragic, touching, and in the hands of writers, damn good copy.

To Biba or not to Biba: photograph by Steven Meisel from *Kate* by Kate Moss (Pavilion, £16.99), a retrospective in pictures, selected by Moss, of the modelling career which has made her "one of the fashion legends of the 1990s"

Paradise is stuffed with olives

■ A SEASON IN SPAIN
By Andrew and Lesley Grant-Adamson
Pavilion, £12.99

■ THE STARS OVER PAXOS
By John Gill
Pavilion, £12.99

■ IN THE VALLEY OF THE FIREFLIES
By Peter Hobday
Michael Joseph, £15.99

IF YOU like olives, you will love these books. They speak of little else. How we left home and found salvation in the ancient olive groves of our exclusive corner of paradise in Spain/Greece/Italy. How we joined the gnarled but noble old peasants in the back-breaking but noble task of harvesting the olives in our EC of P in Spain/Greece/Italy. How we cooked morning, noon and night with the freshly-squeezed extra virgin which they virtually give away here in our EC of P in Spain/Greece/Italy. Even my envy is olive-scented.

These expeditions are not without peril. Our heroes variously encounter too much water (Greece), too little (Spain), or call in a dowser and drill a well (Italy). They do battle with colourful but incomprehensible locals. They conquer scarab beetles and biting spiders in Greece, mosquitoes and vipers in Italy, seeping sewage and Costa del Crime villains in Spain. The saving grace, of course, is that they do it all against the backdrop of some of Europe's most lyrical scenery — the Alpujarra mountains of Andalusia, the Greek island of Paxos, and a wooded valley in Umbria — and describe their exploits with endearing humour, generally directed against themselves.

One can therefore pardon their divers annoying habits. All of them feel compelled to establish academic credentials by bolstering their light tales from the olive grove with indigestible chunks of local history. Peter Hobday, the owner of the Radio 4 voice, overindulges his obsession with a middling 15th-century Umbrian painter. John Gill lectures less and entertains more but assaults us with a jarring mixture of powerfully poetic description and schoolyard four-letter words.

Worst of all, Lesley and Andrew Grant-Adamson cling so tenaciously to their shared byline that they switch giddily between the first person plural and the third person singular: "Not only was it exhausting work, Andrew pushing the barrow and Lesley stacking the logs, but we had discovered why the load had been delivered at night."

Hmm. Pass the olives.

SALLY BAKER

A Cold War thriller that manages to make boring old Bonn seem exciting

Against the wall

■ HEART'S JOURNEY IN WINTER
By James Buchan
Harvill, £14.99

IN espionage there are no clear winners, because the game never ends. In *Heart's Journey in Winter*, James Buchan has taken on two immense tasks: he has tried to write a self-consciously literary novel in the thriller genre, and he has tried to set a book in Bonn and not make it boring. He almost succeeds.

It is difficult to write about the last years of the Cold War without the product being coloured by hindsight. But by turning hindsight into prescience, Buchan has created a rogue spy and a principled diplomat who foresee the chaos that would result from the end of the nuclear stalemate: that "victory" for the West might be hollow if it were total. Might it, under those circumstances, be worth mitigating the success rate? Or would that amount to working for the other side? And what about the middle?

For the Cold War did have a middle: divided Germany. In 1983, when the Americans were set on deploying Cruise and Pershing II missiles in West Germany, boring old Bonn briefly became the fulcrum of the nuclear see-saw. Public opinion was divided. The idea of missiles that could only land on German soil resurrected German nationalism, in an unfamiliar pacifist guise. Against this backdrop Buchan has placed his Polish-American Mata Hari and her British lover, a writer compromised by his links to MI6 but hopelessly out of his depth amidst the professional cynics, not to mention Red Army urban terrorists.

Buchan's kaleidoscope story-telling is disconcerting. His understanding of Germany is deep-rooted and he insists that the reader make an effort. It is worth it.

PETER MILLAR

Growing up with a devil's kiss

■ RATTLEBONE
By Maxine Clair
Virago, £9.99

In Rattlebone there is Miss October Brown, a new schoolteacher with foreign ways, a "Devil's kiss" on her cheek and the power to steal Reenie's father clean away. Rattlebone holds Thomas Pemberton, a good man and a preacher, but a man with a secret and hopeful heart. Puddin cannot talk, but can play the *Moonlight Sonata*, and Sister Joan rides into Rattlebone in a big car with news of the Blessed Virgin. Rattlebone is more than just a poor black suburb of Kansas City.

Maxine Clair's first novel is a tender and unflinching evocation of a world on the brink of reluctant change, where a discount at the "coloreds only" lunch counter is still a good thing and the herald of the new age is a jet that drops like Icarus from the sky, tearing up old certainties along with everything else in its path. But change is not only external: life outside Rattlebone is for the most part distant and mysterious.

The pleasure of this novel lies in the changing lives of its characters as they move through their small-town spaces, setting off the sparks that make both fiction and life. Most of the time the narrator is Reenie Wilson, who travels from 8 to 17 in the novel's span — her final recognition that October Brown's brand is nothing more than vitiligo is a mark of maturity and perhaps of loss. But the other voices of *Rattlebone* are present too, in chapters that are strong enough to stand alone. They give the novel the added truth of deep acquaintance and rounded knowledge, making it more than just one girl's journey into adulthood.

Clair writes with the clear eyes of childhood, but her view is never naive. She remembers that children always know more than they are imagined to, and that recollection instils her novel with a purity and depth that make *Rattlebone* such a fine debut.

ERICA WAGNER

AUDIO BOOKS

Bug-eyed and reckless

■ THE CRAZY WORLD OF MARTY FELDMAN
Speaking Volumes, £4.99
(37 minutes)

MARTY FELDMAN was a comic genius who died far too young. His very appearance was enough to start gales of laughter in audiences. His BBC television series is still remembered, not only for the gigantic budgets and overspending, but for the brilliance and sheer ambition of his manic inventiveness. Just a few of these 24 songs capture that zany spirit, notably an outrageous Eurovision Song which would probably still win that everlasting contest.

■ THE WORLD OF MUSIC HALL
Various artists
Speaking volumes, £4.99
(40 minutes)

THE magic of music hall fares badly in this short compilation tape. The recordings are of poor quality, the lyrics are patchy, mostly weak. For people who never saw music hall, certainly anyone under 50, this will do nothing to dispel the impression that they were indeed lucky to grow up in a television age. Two artists, Marie Lloyd and Max Miller, give a hint of what may have been magic to those who lived through it. For nostalgia addicts only.

■ GOON SHOW CLASSIC 8
BBC Radio Collection, £7.99
(2 cassettes, 120 minutes)

THE wit of Goonery passed me by when the programmes were broadcast first time round. The chums seemed to be in the middle of a private conversation started years before, though the participants clearly found themselves side-splittingly funny. I was never on their wavelength. Listening to these tapes again more than 30 years later I can admire the cleverness, the pace, the writing skill of Milligan and the voices of Sellers, the straight guy in mayhem Secombe. But laughter still eludes me. Never mind, the Goons have now entered that pantheon of "all time greats", the Prince of Wales still loves them and they are never out of the BBC's best sellers — so I must be wrong.

■ THE LEGENDARY STANLEY HOLLOWAY
Speaking Volumes, £7.99
(2 cassettes, 97 minutes)

A DOUBLE gem. All the well-known monologues are here from *Sam Pick Up Tny Musket*, *Brahn Boots*, *My Word You Do Look Queer* and, of course, *The Lion and Albert*. Mrs Ramsbotham's plaintive cry when her Albert is swallowed whole by Wallace the Lion at Blackpool Zoo, "Somebody's got to be summonsed", probably began our national obsession for finding someone to blame for everything that goes wrong. Hunt the scapegoat is now our national sport, ably abetted by the tabloids. Wonderful to hear Stanley Holloway's brown ale voice with these matchless masterpieces. Not to be missed.

Milligan: private chat

RUSSELL TWISK

The Times / Dillons Bestsellers

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هكذا من الأصل

Strangers in a strange land

■ ONE FOR THE MONEY
By Janet Evanovich
Hamish Hamilton, £9.99

■ FULL STOP
By Joan Smith
Chatto & Windus, £14.99

THERE are two unusual feaures about *One for the Money*. It is set in Trenton, New Jersey, a city with no nteresting features whatever; and the leading lady, Stephanie Plum, is a bounty hunter. More accurately, she is an apprehension agent for a bail-bond company, tracking down bail absconders for a percentage of the money at stake. Unemployed since losing her ob as a buyer for a cheap ingerie store, and with a amily anxious to marry her ff to a succession of unsuitble dweebs, she takes to ounty hunting among Trenon's lowlife as a last resort.

Her first assignment is to race Joe Morelli, a hood who, just happens, had deflowerd her 20 years before behind he chocolate éclairs at the ocal bakery. Plum is an riginal — disorganised, feisty nd funny, with a wonderful ne in self-deprecation. Her earch for Morelli is engagngly madcap, interrupted by ome serious violence from a ychopathic boxing champin. *One for the Money* reinds me a little of the fastoving, wise-cracking omedies Hollywood used to o so well.

Smith: inducing frissons

Crime fiction heroines (and eroes) do not easily flourish ut of their natural habitats. he believability of Sara aretsky's V. I. Warshawski, or example, arises directly rom her firm adhesion to her ative Chicago. Place and the erson constantly interact; veacity is achieved. An away xture is seldom as successful s playing at home. Joan mith's sprightly, sexy acaemic, Dr Loretta Lawson, elongs at Oxford University nd Islington. In *Full Stop* she s in New York for a few days, lone in a friend's apartment. he starts receiving sexually hreatening telephone calls. When she goes out sightseeng, she feels herself being ollowed. Her mounting fear, s unease veers towards pan, is portrayed with an acute eeling of menace and tension. mith induces genuine frisons, but the book's climax acks the expected shocks.

Full Stop is more of a omma, awaiting Loretta awson's return to more familiar territory.

MARCEL BERLINS

Postwar demobilisation left lasting scars on the family, says **Donald Trelford**

HULTON DEUTSCH COLLECTION

Hero's welcome: after the initial euphoria of victory, the returning troops were left to pick up the emotional pieces as best they could

Life after wartime

■ WHEN DADDY CAME HOME
By Barry Turner & Tony Rennell
Hutchinson, £16.99

■ WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, MUMMY?
By Mavis Nicholson
Chatto & Windus, £16.99

BETWEEN May 1945 and the end of 1946, more than four million servicemen were reabsorbed into an austere, depressed, blitzed-out Britain, many of them with no jobs or homes to go to. Historians have tended to pass over this massive demobilisation campaign as a self-evident success, celebrated with bunting and jolly street parties.

A more disturbing picture, however, emerges from a book by Barry Turner and Tony Rennell, published for the anniversary of VE-Day and based mainly on first person accounts by families — fathers, mothers and children — 50 years after the event. The letters, written in reply to a request placed in newspapers, reveal "the deep well of desperation and unhappiness that marked the homecoming of so many men and women".

There were certainly errors and injustices in the whole demob process, which Churchill had acceded to with reluctance because he feared (wrongly) that the war with Japan would go on for two more years and (rightly) that Stalin would not be withdrawing his forces from Eastern and Central Europe. British troops with overseas service, some away for five years, were given no priority, which led to riots in the Far East; and volunteers were denied the right of conscripts to have their old jobs back.

The authors develop a far-reaching thesis that demobilisation was not only a miserable experience for many individuals, but a root cause of Britain's postwar social malaise: "The feeling of abandonment and hopelessness lasted for the rest of their lives". At first the book's subtitle, "How family life changed forever in 1945" seems a publisher's overstatement, but the cumulative testimony is hard to deny.

The war has been analysed exhaustively; so has the peace. But the transition from war to peace — and the lasting impact it had on the people involved — has had relatively little attention. It does not seem too fanciful to relate the bloody-mindedness of the trade unions in the decades after the war, the distrust of authority and the growing acceptance of family breakdown in our society, to the traumas and emotional dislocations of that time.

Many ex-servicemen found Civvy Street "alien and difficult to accept". One recalls: "I didn't think anybody wished me to reappear to upset their life". A woman remembers her father as "a tall dark stranger who never spoke, just sat and stared with an awful look in his eyes".

Some, traumatised by the horrors or racked by guilt at surviving when friends had died, could not share their grief with their wives, who felt shut out. Yet there was no counselling or "caring", except by bodies such as the Women's Voluntary Service, the Salvation Army and the British Legion.

The adjustment was just as hard for families. "In place of the fun-loving affectionate boy I had married I found this military martinet with a large ego." Thousands of marriages broke under the strain. The courts were lenient with returning soldiers who murdered faithless wives. Children resented a stranger replacing them in their mother's affections, and her bed.

I was eight when my father returned from the war. Like several of the witnesses in this book, I have a vivid memory of the rough khaki uniform and a prickly moustache. I also remember that he refused to talk about his experiences in Italy and North Africa. Anyone old enough to remember the end of the war will find much in this book that is poignant and evocative.

Elderly ladies retelling their youthful adventures are usually worth hearing, especially when the memories are teased out by such a sharp listener as Mavis Nicholson. *What Did You Do in the War, Mummy?* is a charming collection, typified by a remark by one of the women: "When I removed my pinny from my body, I removed it from my mind as well".

Some of the interviewees, such as Odette Hallowes and Anne Shelton, have since died. The "forces' favourite" reveals that she was only 11 when she first sang with Ambrose's band and that she very nearly travelled with Glen Miller on his fateful last flight.

Two survivors of the "Nightingales", the flying nurses who rescued many casualties after D-Day, show that this branch of the service has not had the official recognition it deserves. Helen Brook, the contraceptive pioneer, and Renate Olins, director of Marriage Guidance, had their reforming energies sharpened by the war. Actress Molly Weir sums up the prevailing attitude of "living for the moment" which most of these remarkable women seem to have carried into the rest of their lives.

Spy at home in the cold

John le Carré is playing his usual, remarkable game, says **Douglas Hurd**

■ OUR GAME
By John le Carré
Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99

JOHN LE CARRE has come close to scoring from long range the most amazing bullseye. When he conceived this book, Ingusetia and Chechenia were two small statelets of the Russian Federation, huddled side by side under the Caucasus mountains, both unkown to the Western world. Now we have all heard of and grieved for Chechenia. In *Our Game* it is Ingusetia which is attacked by the Russians, its people massacred, its hopes of independence snuffed out. To their help goes Larry Pettifer, professor at Bath University. Byronic in his appearance, his loves and his belief in his English duty to rescue from the tyrant a freedom-loving race.

But of course a le Carré novel cannot be quite like that. The greater and more satisfactory part of the story lies in England. Larry Pettifer is followed through the eyes of Tim Cranmer, his friend at Winchester and Oxford and among the immoral perplexities of MI6. Cranmer runs Pettifer as a double agent with the KGB. Pettifer makes off with Cranmer's girl, Cranmer retaliates with violence and leaves Pettifer for dead in a pool on the Mendips. But . . .

Le Carré: genuine article

The key to le Carré's success is apparent here more than in earlier books. It lies not so much in the plot (relatively simple) or in the characters (relatively convoluted). His strength is in the tough use of language to conjure up a scene so extraordinarily vivid that it stays in the memory. The use of contrasts is masterly. Cranmer keeps his secret documents in a priest's hole in a Somerset church. As the story nears its climax, he sees through the arrowslits of the tower three men in the moonlit churchyard. Preparing for flight, he conceals his briefcase in the pulpit, lights the altar candles and kneels in the nearest le Carré will ever come to prayer. One pair of feet, with boots, rubber-soles up the aisle, and MI6 is with him again. "I've checked. There's not a whiff of God on your file. What are you cooking up?" But Cranmer thrusts his gun in the man's groin, locks him in the vestry and away to Paddington, a barn in Cheshire with three corpses, his loved one in Paris and fulfilment in Ingusetia. There are many imitators, and parody is tempting, but this is the genuine article.

All the familiar devices and prejudices of le Carré are here. The reader is jerked about with relentless flashbacks. Much time is spent in introspection. After cursing "the load of Englishness that had held me back and spurred me forward all my life", Cranmer curses Milo and then Larry "for shining a lamp into the cavernous emptiness of what he called my dull rectangular mind and dragging me beyond the limits of my precious self-mastery". There is a good deal of this.

The England which Tim Cranmer curses is a shade out of date. London clubs are surrounded by thick fog, public schools are savage, the Foreign Office cynical and effete, the police brutal, MI5 plain wicked. The reader meets each familiar friend with an affectionate nod of recognition. By contrast the noble savages of Ingusetia are cardboard figures. Le Carré does not bother [illegible] much [illegible] admirable, he persists in loving what he hates, his old service most of all.

● *Our Game is also available as an audio book, read by John le Carré (Hodder Headline, £9.99)*

An epic novel of war set in the idyll of a Greek island

Chords of love and conflict

■ CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN
By Louis de Bernières
Minerva, £6.99

ON the wall of Louis de Bernières's little house behind a junk shop in Wandsworth, he has a list of the warriors who came over to England with William the Conqueror. The name of his ancestor, Hugh de Bernières, is there among them.

Perhaps that is why this cheerful, modest 40-year-old Englishman has an imagination that has winged across Europe and produced a wonderful epic novel about the Italian occupation of the Greek island of Cephalonia during the Second World War. It is his fourth novel — the first three were comic tales of magic realism set in South America — and it has made him a name to conjure with.

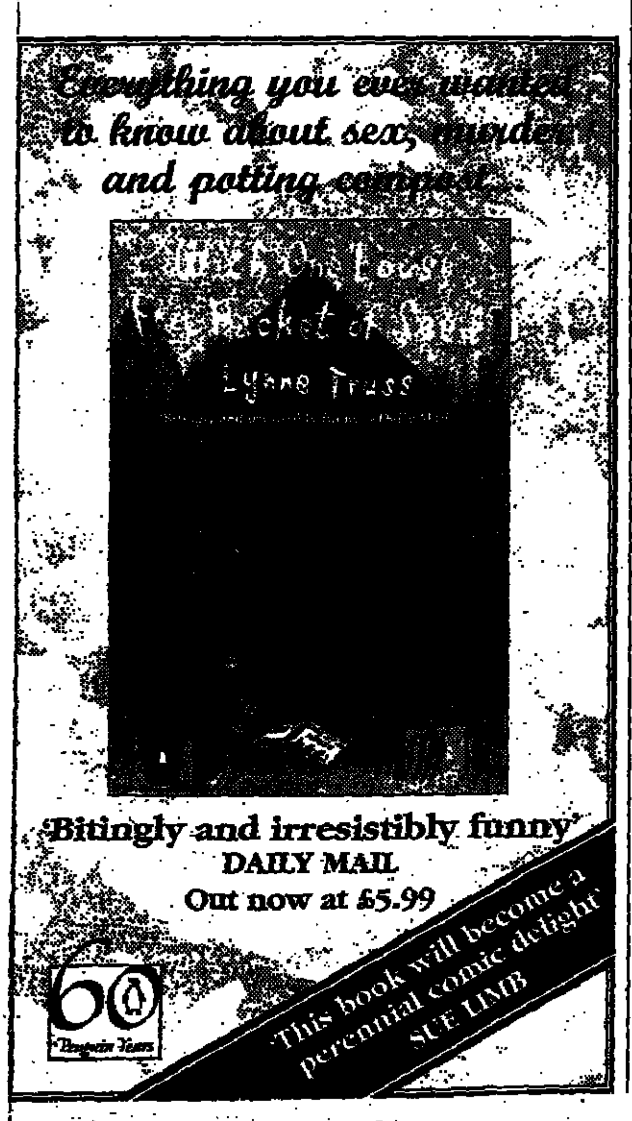
Both on the large and the small scale it is a absorbing and memorable book. The horrors of the winter war when Italy invaded Greece across the Albanian border in 1940 are seen through the eyes of Carlo, a brave and kindly Italian homosexual who has decided that the army is the right place for him to be, since there he can perform deeds of heroism in front of his beloved. (A useful argument for the Labour Party?) The outcome is more terrible than he could ever have imagined.

But when the Italians take over the island of Cephalonia in 1941, they prove to be benign occupiers. The focus turns to a Greek doctor on the island and his daughter Pelagia, along with a whole cast of island characters and animals. When a music-loving Italian officer, Captain Corelli, is billeted with his mandolin on the doctor, a strange idyll emerges — a tender, unconsummated love between Pelagia and the captain, in a sunlit land smelling of rosemary.

But there are many more grim events in store. There is the massacre of the Italian troops by the Germans when Italy pulls out of the war, and the Italian commander on the island hums and haws about what to do until it is too late. There are the atrocities committed by the Greek communists (a handsome fisherman spurned by Pelagia among them) and, towards the end of the book, the earthquake of 1963. That earthquake ruined practically every building on the old Venetian island — so it is all the more remarkable a feat by de Bernière to have recreated them.

There are historical passages where the novel creaks a bit, there are some over-written stretches, and perhaps the charm of the idyll is a little self-conscious. But the sweep, invention and warmth of the novel carries one effortlessly along — and, apart from a mad spy, there is hardly an Englishman in sight.

DERWENT MAY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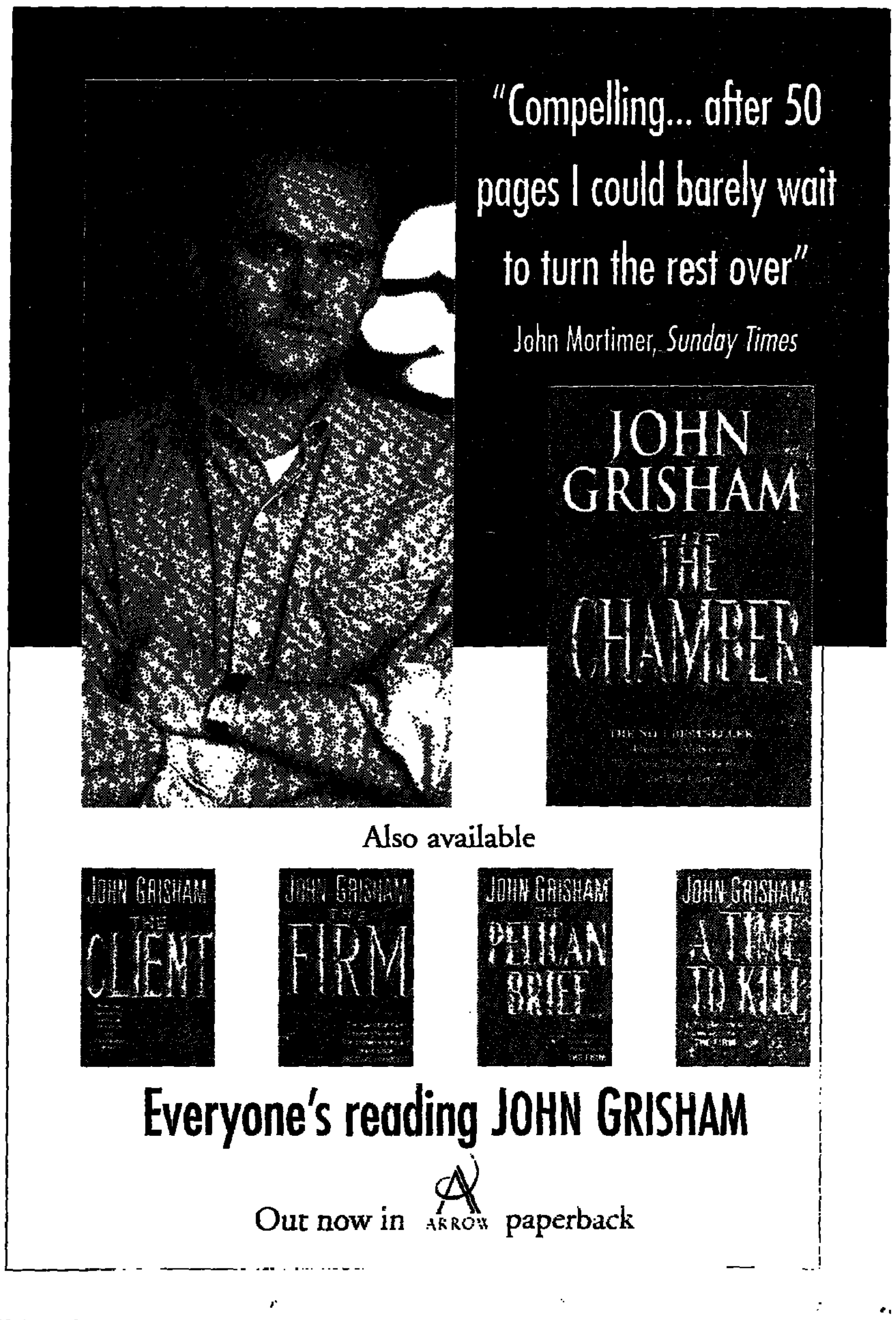
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By Joanne Glover

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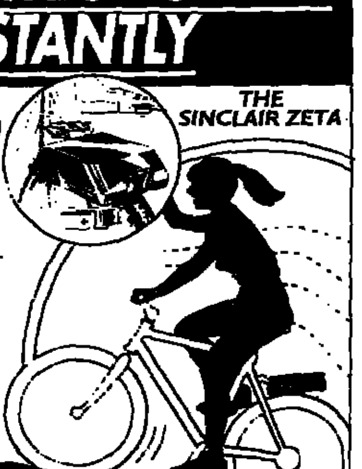

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Having suffered from IBS for several years I know what a devastating effect it can have on your life and I do hope my book will be able to help you. In fact, I am so confident that my book can help you that you can try my advice **without risk** - if you don't find the book helpful then return it to me within 28 days of receipt and I will ensure that you get a full refund. To order your copy send a cheque/PO (payable to Healthbooks) for £9.95 to Dr Vernon Coleman, Special Reader Offer, Sales Office to Publishing House, Trinity Place Barnstaple, *Devon EX32 9HJ (p&p is FREE)*. Your book will be despatched within 21 days. Reading this book could help solve your IBS problem for good - and your risk-free order means that you **have nothing to lose.**

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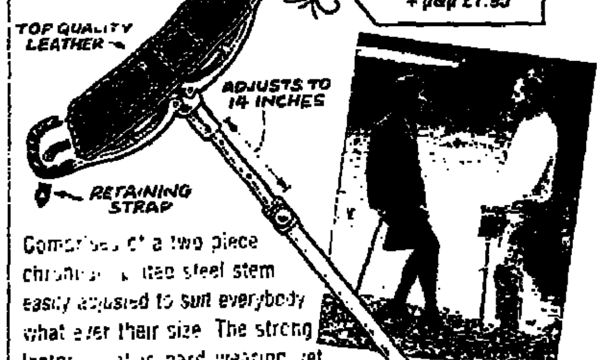

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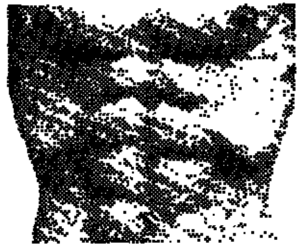

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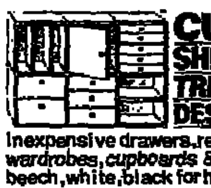

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Taking GCSE or 'A' Level?

My name is Dr Peter Smith and for seven years I have worked as an examiner for three different examination boards at GCSE, GCE 'O' and 'A' level. I must have marked thousands of *exam papers* and I saw with depressing regularity that many candidates were losing marks simply because they did not know what the examiner was looking for nor how they should answer the questions properly.

Having used *marking schemes* and having been instructed on how to mark exam papers, I came to realise that this information could be of immense value to anyone sitting these examinations. So I decided to write a guide, *"GCSE & GCE 'A' Level Examination Tips & Hints"*. In this guide, I tell you:

- How you can help your examiner to be positive about your papers.
- How you can encourage your examiner to give you whole marks and not just halves.
- How *much to write*... and, even more important, what not to write.
- How to use your time in an examination to pick up extra marks.
- *How exam papers are marked.*
- How to answer essay questions and questions involving calculations.
- How to structure your revision.

I believe that the hints given in this *guide may improve a candidate's* results by 2-5 marks. This may not sound like much, but it could mean the difference between a 'D' and a 'B' at A-level. Of course, there is no substitute for hard work and you can't expect to get marks from nowhere, *but you can present what* you know in a way that is very likely to pick up those vital extra marks. Order your copy of *"GCSE & GCE 'A' Level Examination Tips & Hints"* direct from my publishers and save. To order, send your name, address, the book title and your payment (cheque or Visa/Access) of *£12 fully inclusive* to **Carnell plc**, Dept. EX7 , Alresford, nr Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, or **telephone our 24 hour order hotline on 01206 825600**, allowing up *to 14 days for delivery.* You may return the book anytime within three months for a full refund if not satisfied.

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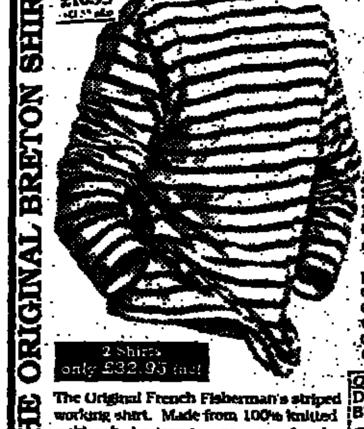

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Wherever you plan to go on holiday this year, the right bag and travel accessories can make light work of your packing

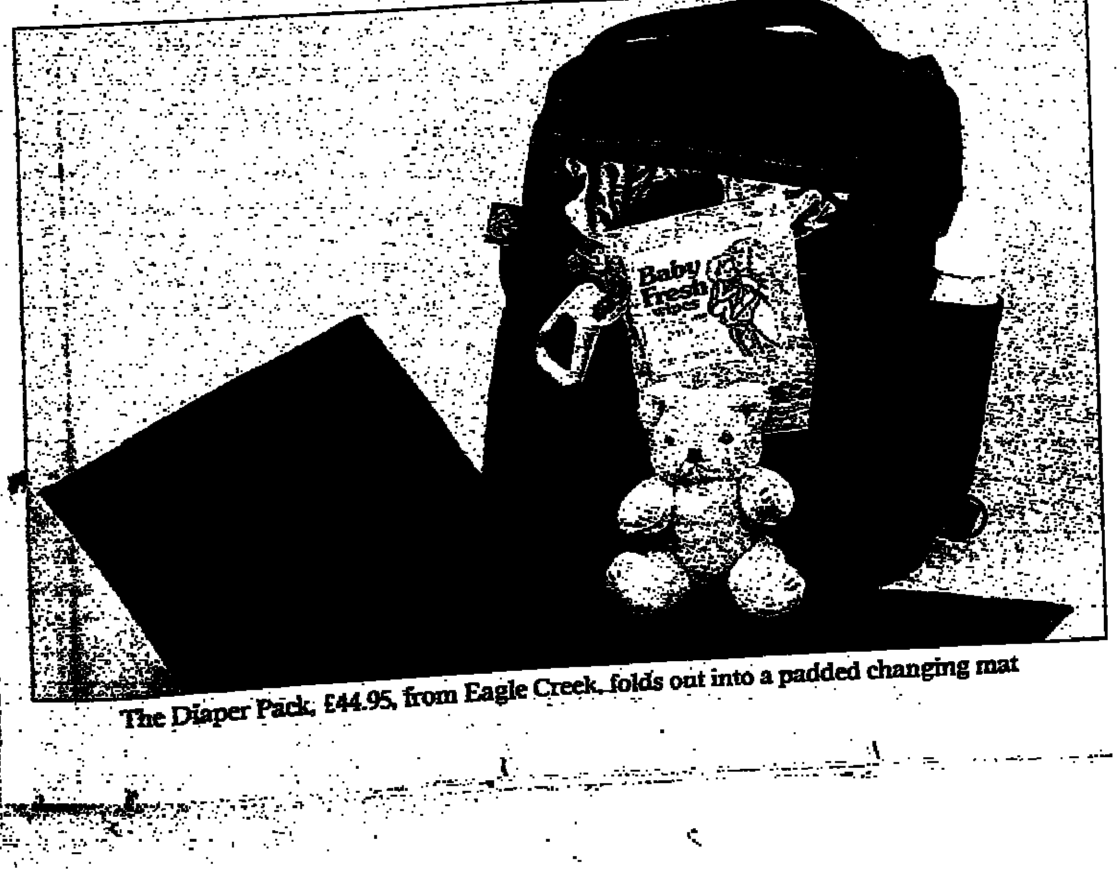
Carrying it off with bags of style

PATRICK MOORE

The Eaglet, £44.95, a miniature backpack for children (left) has reflective tape and a whistle, from Eagle Creek. The same company also makes the Journey Series, a range of backpacks and holdalls for adventure travellers (above)

Keep your valuables dry in a Splashbox, £3.99 and £6.99, from Go

Trouser money belt with a zip inside, £14.95, from Travelling Light



The Diaper Pack, £44.95, from Eagle Creek, folds out into a padded changing mat

"For my part I travel not to go anywhere, but to go," said Robert Louis Stevenson. "I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move." Stevenson would doubtless have enjoyed his journeys even more had he benefited from the lightweight bags and luggage available to latter-day travellers.

Whether you are setting off for a Mediterranean package holiday or an adventure in Alaska, there is a product to suit your needs.

For a beach holiday, the traditional suitcase is fine, but what if you are planning to go island-hopping in Greece or backpacking in Thailand?

Eagle Creek, an American-based company, makes backpacks and holdalls that are tested in the world's most extreme conditions — Everest, African deserts and South American rainforests. The company is so confident of its products' durability that it offers a lifetime guarantee.

The Journey series (in black, evergreen or meridian blue) caters for adventure travellers. The Solo Journey backpack (£109.95, 1.6kg) is the maximum size for airline hand luggage, while Continental Journey (£149.95, 2kg), World Journey (£199.95, 2.5kg) and Endless Journey (£249.95, 3kg) incorporate a main backpack and a zip-off smaller front pack made of robust nylon with a water-repellent coating. The Backcountry Series (£44.95 to £99.95) is suitable for hikers and mountain bikers because the design places emphasis on load balance.

For those with babies, the Diaper Pack (£44.95), in evergreen, blue or purple, is a backpack with room for infant essentials such as nappies, bottles and a change of clothes, which folds out into a padded changing mat. For older children, aged four to 12, the Eaglet (£44.95) is a miniature backpack with a water bottle holder, reflective tape and a whistle in case the child gets separated from the family.

It's all very well having the right luggage for your journey, but what do you do when space is limited and you want to pack it with as many home comforts as possible? Jack Rogers has the answer. In 1978, he founded Go Travel Products, specialising in portable items designed for travellers.

Today, Go sells around 200 products in more than 30 countries ranging from inflatable quilted travel pillows to portable security door locks. With security in mind Go has a range of hideaway wallets and pouches that will safely and discretely store currency, credit cards, passports, tickets and other travel documents.

The Go money Belt (£3.99) is a poly/cotton zip-top wallet worn around the waist under clothing. The Wallaby Wallet (£5.99) hangs around the neck on a comfortable cord, and has a separate wallet attached by a cord.

Travelling Light produces a smart cotton belt available in waist sizes of 26in to 44in with leather ends and a brass buckle, which is worn in trouser loops like a normal belt (£14.95). On the inside is a zip that runs the length of the belt, for storing banknotes and small documents. Go's Holsta (£4.99) simply wraps around the shoulder to fasten under the arm with the wallet firmly next to your body.

For extra capacity, Go's Packaway Pac (£6.99) is a standard-size soft nylon backpack that folds away into a compact pouch. Splashboxes (£3.99 or £6.99 in blue, purple, ivory or yellow plastic) are waterproof canisters for storing sunglasses, credit cards, jewellery and cash.

If you are travelling to remote areas, it is wise to take an emergency medical pack. Go's International Health Kit (£16.99) has a comprehensive selection of basic first-aid materials, dental essentials such as temporary fittings and crowns, sterile syringes and sewing sutures.

The Flexi-Flask (£6.99) is a travel water bottle that clips on to a belt or hangs around the neck, and is flat when empty, saving on vital baggage space. Alternatively, slot a 1.5 litre bottle into the built-in mesh Water Porter on the TrekMate utility travel belt (£9.99) with ten storage pockets.

The Pentapure Water Purifier Travel Cup (£24.95), from Travelling Light, is made from iodinated resin, which kills bacteria and parasites. Tested by the US Environmental Protection Agency, a cup of water is purified in 30 seconds and the cup can be used 2,500 times before it needs replacing.

Anyone travelling with British electrical gadgets (hairdryers, portable computers) should invest in Go's Adaptour (£4.99), a multiplug that allows you to use sockets almost anywhere in the world.

KAREN KAY

Stockists

☐ Travelling Light has stores in Morland, Cumbria (01931 714488); Malmesbury, Wiltshire (01666 825550); Bletchingley, Surrey (01883 743456), and Knutsford, Cheshire (01565 621075). Mail order is available. For a free catalogue, call 01931 714488.

☐ Go Travel Products: available from House of Fraser stores nationwide, Harrods, Lillywhites, British Airways Travel Shops, John Lewis, airport shops, YHA stores and selected branches of Boots, Tesco, Sainsbury, Salisburys, Halfords, Fenwick and Makro. For further stockists telephone Go Travel Products Ltd (0181-906 8505).

☐ Eagle Creek products: from Rohan, 10 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2 8PS (0171-831 1059, mail order and branches nationwide); Scout Shops (0171-834 6007 for branches); Field & Trek (0181-680 8798, also mail order); Cotswold Camping (0181-743 2976, also mail order), Wilderness Ways (0191-232 4941) and independent retailers. For further stockist information, ring D. B. Mountainsport (01539 733842).

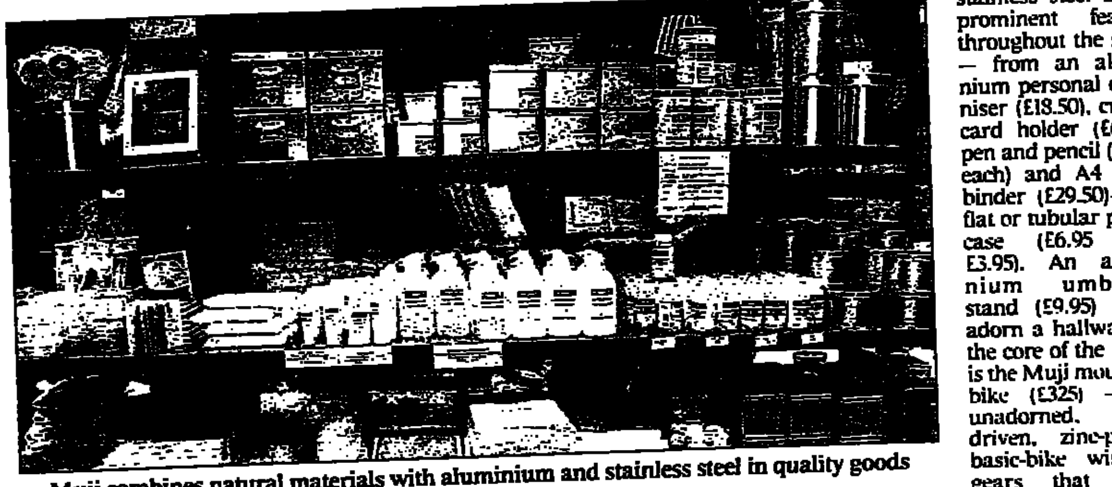
Muji shuns brand names — even its own — in favour of natural, Japanese style

Satisfying a yen for good designs

SHOP OF THE WEEK

MUJI IS A Japanese import that is bringing to Britain a natural, pared-down Eastern style to everything from bicycles to bed linen, paper goods to pots and pans.

The name Muji is short for *mujirushi ryohin*, which translates as "no brand, quality goods". Once the price tag is removed, there is nothing to identify an item as coming from Muji. Omitting all brand names, including your own, might seem like retail hara-kiri, but anonymity is central to the Muji philosophy. Muji style is elementary, but it is unmistakably Japanese. No product is too humble to receive the Muji touch. In addition to the clothing, furniture, food, kitchenware and stationery, you can buy Muji-designed cotton buds, clingfilm and even Muji clothes pegs. But only a style insider will know where you got that clever lunchbox or that perfect navy sweatshirt.



Muji combines natural materials with aluminium and stainless steel in quality goods

In Japan, Muji enjoys a cult status, with more than 200 outlets. The first Muji shop in Britain — a partnership between the Japanese parent company and Liberty of London — opened in 1991 on Carnaby Street in London. Since then, more outlets have opened around the country.

Muji's strength is its simple but good designs. Colours are muted and natural; this season's clothes and towels are in natural linen, cotton and denim, enlivened with an occasional plain navy blue, burgundy or gingham check.

The simple, high-quality cotton shirts (from £19.95) and sweaters (from £24) are labelled "men's" and "ladies'", but are arranged together on the shelves to encourage unisex dressing. Muji's all-cotton women's casual jersey trousers (£29.95) are in black, grey or navy, while its popular ladies' cotton camisole (£7.50) comes in black, white or grey. That icon of modern headgear, the baseball cap, is available in natural linen (£14.95).

The store's food department includes Muji Cola (45p) in gleaming silver cans adorned with Japanese script.

For the small flat, Muji offers a five-way table in ash (£450) that converts from a small coffee table to a six-seat dining table to a drawing board with only a few deft movements. And there is a futon sofa (£475) which converts to a double bed.

Muji's storage systems seem almost endless. Choose from lightweight zinc boxes with handles, available in three sizes (£15.95 to £22); tin boxes, canisters and cylinders for the kitchen, bathroom or office (£2.75 to £5.95); or sturdy brown cardboard drawers and boxes with natural rope handles (boxes from £2.95, drawers from £8.75). Then there is beechwood-veneer shelving (£95), fitted with black fibreboard boxes (£12.95 each), which is perfect for hiding toys, shoes or tools.

In contrast to the soft and natural elements, aluminium and stainless steel are a prominent feature throughout the store — from an aluminium personal organiser (£18.50), credit-card holder (£6.95), pen and pencil (£3.95 each) and A4 ring-binder (£29.50) to a flat or tubular pencil case (£6.95 and £3.95). An aluminium umbrella stand (£9.95) could adorn a hallway. At the core of the range is the Muji mountain bike (£325) — an unadorned, shaft-driven, zinc-plated, basic-bike with 18 gears that some trendsetters will probably decide to hang on their wall.

NANCY PATTON WOOD

- *Muji shops are at 26 Great Marlborough Street, London W1 (0171-494 1197); 38 Shelton Street, London WC2 (0171-379 1331); 157 Kensington High Street, London W8 (0171-376 2484); 63-67 Queen Street, Glasgow (0141-248 7455).*
- *Muji concessions are found in Liberty stores in Brighton, Oxford and Cheltenham.*
- *Muji mail-order catalogues can be requested by calling 0171-494 1197.*

The root of my bitter-sweet affair

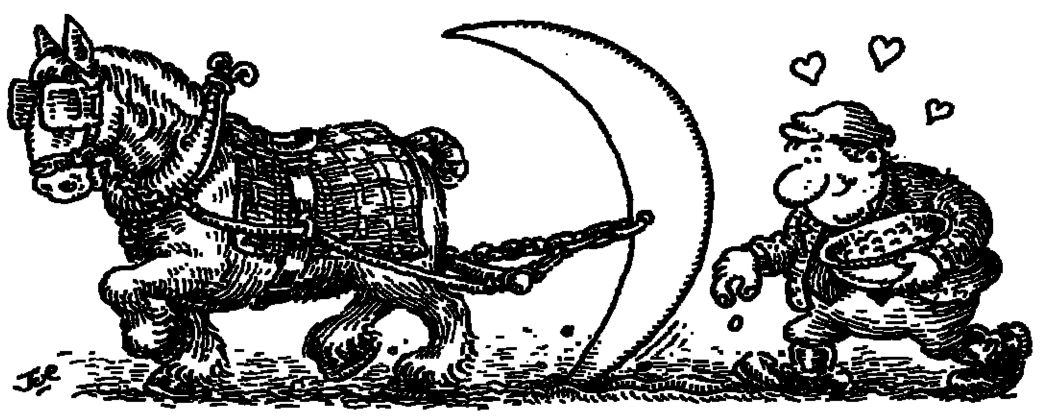
FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

It is becoming one of the greatest love-hate relationships of modern romantic history. Better than *Private Lives* or Burton and Taylor any day. It starts off all lovey dovey and invariably ends in tears, but the broken heart does not lie bleeding for long: it is soon throbbing to start the torrid love affair all over again. Yes, it's me and the mangel-wurzels.

This is the time of year when you sow mangel seed, if you are going to get a crop to lift in the autumn. They are indeed a beguiling crop, of that there is no doubt. Come September, when the roots are swelling to their final proportions and are taking on a ruddy hue, it is not difficult to imagine that you have grown a field of massive rubies. But this year, I could not decide whether to bother or not, because last year the mangels and I had a serious tiff.

I planted the seed by the last week in April, as the sages advised. Like a love-struck schoolboy waiting for his girl by the bus shelter, I hung around the field watching for my little loves to sprout. Every other kind of tarty little piece came along. The creeping thistle peeped coyly through the soil to tantalise me, even the mayweed tried to seduce me into thinking that a field of her would be a fine thing to have. But where was the mangel? After three weeks, no flirtatious little shoots had appeared to promise bulbous juicy roots. Nothing. No hint of a plant that might grow into a juicy root, become ever sweeter as the summer months went by, and reach a perfection of succulence come harvest time. Lousy things. They never germinated. I hate mangels.

On the other hand, I love them. They make fine winter fodder, greedily eaten by cattle, horses, sheep, and even pigs if they can get them. Yet — and here's the beauty of it — when they are growing they are to nobody's taste. Slugs do not seem to bother with them; wicked diseases and mildews that plague other roots crops, such as turnips, do not give mangels a second glance. The marauding rooks and crows have no taste for the newly planted seeds, and only when they are nearly ripe will the rabbits have an occasional nibble, but nothing too serious. Oh yes, I love mangels.



On the other hand, I loathe them. Apart from last year, when they simply refused to grow and had to be ploughed under to teach them a lesson, they are as labour-intensive a crop as one would wish to avoid. They have no self-control, so each seed brings forth two or more plants. These need culling, or you end up with spindly roots no bigger than stunted carrots. The singling is slow, exacting and tedious, and takes the best part of a week. True, they are then little trouble till harvesting time, usually before the first frosts, but by then the land is chilly and sodden and for another week we trudge through filth and muck, lifting each root by hand. Then, I seriously hate mangels. At the moment, however, I am thinking rather fond thoughts of them. The day we planted them was gloriously sunny and the seed bed into which they dropped was as cosy as if it had been warmed by an electric blanket. The soil crumbled into a fine tilth and wrapped itself around my little loves as snugly as silk sheets. Oh, the romance of that day.

Later, one worrying thought crossed my mind. A few weeks ago, I wrote of the effects of the phases of the moon on the birth of lambs. There was a suggestion that lambs tended to be born on a waxing moon, and not on a waning moon. Several people wrote in support of the theory and said how the moon's influence extended far and wide. One woman, when a child, always had her hair cut on "the first Friday of the new moon", because her mother believed it would make the hair grow thicker. It worked.

So, that night, after we had spent all day drilling the mangel seed, harrowing the field to cover them, and rolling them well into the ground, I sat up to wait for the moon, not being able to remember its current phase. It broke my heart to discover it was well past full and on the way to its demise. If the theory holds good, seeds sown on the waning moon will not thrive. Oh, heartbreak.

Then I remembered the sea tides. Several of you, including Professor Chamberlain, a distinguished obstetrician, have written to point out that Welsh superstition dictates that in coastal areas lambs are born when the tide is flooding, and as soon as the tide turns, "the shepherds put on their coats and go home". I checked the tide. Even that was running against me at the moment the seed dropped from the spout of the drill and into the soil.

Oh, I *hate* mangels. I am now convinced that they are not going to grow. If only, somewhere in the sky, there was a portent of hope; a sign that love would blossom once again and be fulfilled at harvest. We've asked for the moon, darling, and it said no. Let's try the stars.

Feather Report

Singer in the reeds

THE end of April brings a cheerful sound to the lakes and rivers of Britain. It is the song of the sedge warblers in the reeds or, more often, in bramble bushes along the banks.

Sometimes the singer skulks unseen on the far side of the bush, sometimes it sings boldly from a thorny spray, and sometimes it even shoots straight up into the air as it sings, and comes dropping down again with its wings and tail spread.

If you get a good view, you cannot mistake it. It is a small bird with a creamy-yellow eyestripe, a streaky brown back and a gingery rump that is very noticeable when it flies away from you.

As for the song, there is nothing quite like it. It begins with a monotonous chinking, and sometimes does not get any further than that. But usually the chinking gives away to an amazing hodge-podge of lively sounds — trills and whistles, and creaking notes and imitations of other birds, even of the coot's piercing cry and the clattering alarm call of the blackbird.

These songsters are all male birds, singing to attract a mate. Their voices often ring out wonderfully in the night in these last days of April. Females may be passing overhead in the dark — and they may be tempted down to take a look at the singer when morning comes.

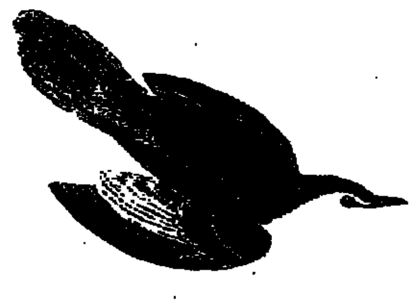
The male birds of most species use their song not only to find a female, but to warn other males to stay out of their territory. But as soon as the male sedge warblers are paired they stop singing.

They are not very territorial, and in May and June will be flying far from their nests to find insects for their young. By then, the only sound you will hear from them will be a scolding "tac, tac" as they slip through the leaves or the reeds — a warning to their nestlings to keep still and quiet. Any sedge warblers that are still singing at midsummer will be bachelors, just warbling on hopefully.

They are especially attractive to watch when they are in the reed beds. If you are lucky, you will see one of them sidling up and down the stems, then it will come up and sit for a moment on the feathery, swaying top of a reed, and shoot a rapid volley of song over the water.

The only bird you can confuse with the sedge warbler is the reed warbler, which clambers up and down the reeds in the same way. But it is a plain brown bird, and its song is like those mechanical opening notes of the sedge warbler's song, without any subsequent take-off into wild harmonies. Only dull, unenterprising sedge warblers sound like reed warblers.

The reed warbler's nest is more attractive, however. It is a deep cup attached to three or four reed stalks and hanging down between them. The sedge warbler has a simple, shallower nest in a bush or, sometimes nowadays, in a tangle of oilseed rape in a field near water.



MARY EVANS

Sedge warblers mimic other birdsong

There are about a quarter of a million pairs of them in Britain in the summer, and they are most abundant in the east of England. They bring up four or five young in the nest, and sometimes fit in a second brood.

In late summer they feed hard, building up their fat reserves before they go back to Africa. They are remarkable flyers: they often keep going for three days, non-stop from England to North Africa. That is why they need so much fat, and why the last sedge warblers you see in the autumn are not the sleek, slim creatures of the spring, but as round as balls.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** Birders — *Watch for the first returning swifts.* Twitchers — *Kentish plover at Pegwell Bay, Kent; black-browed albatross, Hermaness, Shetland; black stork at Bolton Abbey, Yorkshire. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

The man who turned a gravel pit into a wildlife and sporting reserve

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Will Garfit, an artist and conservationist, has spent 25 years showing that nature and field sports can co-exist at his reserve in Cambridgeshire

Where guns and nature mix happily

As a schoolboy, Will Garfit walked past Hauxton gravel pits, near Cambridge, every day. As an adult, he attended his first auction sale — and returned home the impulse buyer of the pits, by this time 69 acres of abandoned ridges and furrows.

That he was an impecunious and newly married art student had not stopped him bidding £38,250, a bid that he had not yet asked the bank manager to approve and support.

"The auction was held on a grey winter's day and the land was a tangle of marshy, willow scrub with no inroads," he recalls. "But I felt it had potential and that it was undervalued."

This year, Mr Garfit, now a successful oil painter of water scenes and father of three grown-up children, celebrates the 25th anniversary of his purchase. Over the years, he has tidied up the boundaries by buying several smaller parcels of land, and he now owns 84 acres, which he has turned into a private nature reserve, fishery and pheasant shoot.

The mix sounds like a conflict of interests. Nevertheless, Mr Garfit has won the Laurent-Perrier award for game and wildlife management. The reserve is home to 377 plant species, some of them rare, and attracts 133 species of birds, 68 of them breeding. He holds pheasant and duck shoots in winter, which do not disturb nesting.

The disused gravel workings have become an example of what an entrepreneurial country lover can achieve with vision, hard work and "a lot of good, like-minded friends," he says. "It's manpower you need, not money. One person on their own can hold on to their dream, can afford to experiment in a way the big reserves can't do. I want to steer nature and show what she can do at her best."

Part of Mr Garfit's enterprise includes "Gardening for Game" courses, run at Hauxton in conjunction with the Game Conservancy, and attended by land managers. For two minutes of each course, participants listen silently to the diversity of birdlife, an indicator of a healthy habitat in which pheasants, and much else, will flourish.

Mr Garfit revels in the apparent contradiction of being both the keeper of a shoot and warden of a sanctuary. He hails gamekeepers as the unsung heroes of the conservation movement and cheerfully admits to having picked their brains. "I get letters from friends thanking me for a day's shooting but saying little of the sport. Instead, they wax lyrical about the wildlife. Sportsmen are far from the hard, ruthless killers we are sometimes depicted as."

Richard Hall, a conservation officer with English Nature in Cambridgeshire, says he has noticed a developing understanding between sportsmen and conservationists. "Intensive shooting might be harmful to wildlife but, on the whole, managing a site for shooting is not that different from managing it for conservation.

"We have shooting taking place on SSSIs (sites of special scientific interest), such as the Ouse Washes, which are internationally important for waterfowl but which also have a wildfowl community." (Waterfowl means any bird that lives on fresh water; wildfowl any bird that is hunted by man. There is, of course, considerable overlap.)

"Sometimes sport is the only reason a site is managed at all, and not left for the scrub to close over," Mr Hall says.

Even Dr Franklyn Perring, a former chief executive of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and co-author of the *Macmillan Field Guide to British Wild Flowers*, who tried to buy the pits at the same auction, pays tribute to Mr Garfit's work.

Dr Perring had been authorised by the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust to spend up to £8,000. "My concern," he says, "was that the new owner would be unsympathetic to wildlife. But it is clear that our hopes that Hauxton pits would become an educational reserve have been realised, and the people Mr Garfit is getting at have more power to help wildlife than the droves of children we would have attracted.

Wildlife abounds at the Hauxton lakes, which hold trout and carp

"Would there be more wildlife at Hauxton today if the trust had bought it? I very much doubt it."

Diversity is at the heart of Mr Garfit's philosophy. "A lot of the conservation movement gets bogged down with rarities, when we should be concerned with maintaining a variety of the ordinary species. The Common Blue butterfly ought to be common." He has recorded 20 butterfly species at Hauxton and is working on a dragonfly census with Peter Prince, a member of the British Antarctic Survey.

"The emerald damselfly, for instance, is widespread in Britain but not common," Mr Prince says. "At Hauxton it is abundant. The central lake is alive with dragonflies, which in turn attract birds."

So far he has recorded 12 species of dragonfly, of which 11 are breeding. He expects to find a couple more this year.

With his motto of "RSVP" — Rid Site of Vermin (mainly rats) and Poachers — Mr Garfit thinks the more liberal wardens and conservationists should take more measures to protect rare species from predators.

As for poachers, the variety of terrain at Hauxton would deter them, even if the alarms and 70 neighbouring houses did not. Making your way at night through willows (coppiced by thatchers), thorn, scrub, wader scrapes (shallow pools where waders like to feed) and carp ponds is tricky.

Mr Garfit derives his main income from commissioned oil paintings, but he finances his nature reserve through trout and carp fishing syndicates on the three lakes (breeding carp in the four ponds), and by growing and selling specimen trees. Disturbance is limited by guests gravitating towards purpose-made clearings and avoiding densely vegetated breeding sites.

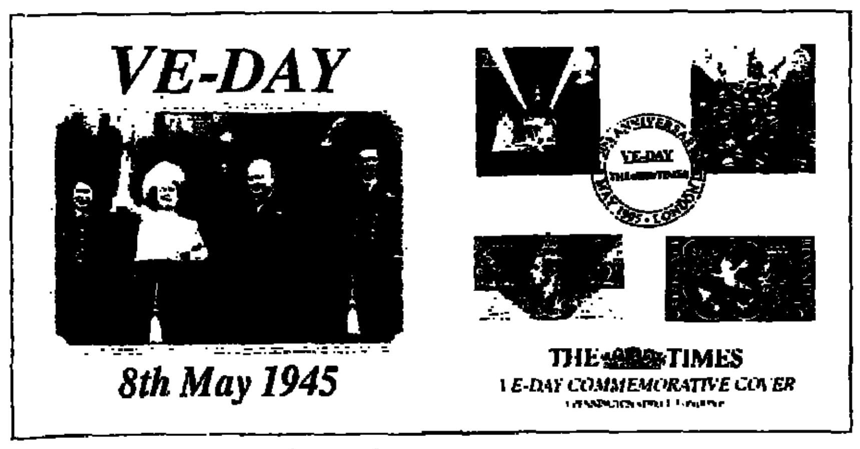
On what he calls his "little patch", he has seen an osprey catch a 3lb carp, noted 2,000 common spotted orchids in bloom, and watched snipe taking refuge from the drained fens.

"Now that the big things are in place I want to concentrate on the fine tuning, such as the flowers and fungi," Mr Garfit says. "I want to focus on the joy of the place."

JENNY MCLEAN

● *The story of Hauxton gravel pits is told in* Will's Shoot, *by Will Garfit (The Sportsman's Press, £16.95).*

● *For more information on game management courses nationwide, ring Liz Scott at the Game Conservatory on 01425 652381.*



THE TIMES
READER OFFER
VE-Day Commemorative Cover Offer

WHEN Germany surrendered in the early hours of May 8 1945, a two-day public holiday was declared. People gathered in the streets to celebrate - and when night fell the flag-waving and singing continued around bonfires.

Fifty years later, *The Times* is proud to offer readers a unique commemoration of VE-Day. Two new stamps issued to mark the anniversary will be fixed to a specially designed cover, presented in deep blue, sepia and gold on a pale buff background. A large sepia-toned photograph shows King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and Princess Elizabeth with Winston Churchill on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

Also on the cover will be a mint affixed set of the stamps issued half a century ago to mark the end of the war.

The 1995 stamps show British troops at the liberation of Paris, and searchlights forming a giant V from behind St Paul's Cathedral on VE-Day. These will be specially franked by the Royal Mail with a handstamp that will be used only on that day.

The covers will be sent out from May 8 in protective sleeves so that they arrive in perfect condition. We have secured 5,000 pairs of the original 1945 stamps; if demand exceeds this number, we will substitute other mint stamps from the reign of George VI.

The Times VE-Day Commemorative Cover Offer

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Send coupon and remittance to: *The Times* VE Day Commemorative Cover Offer, PO Box 45, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1UD

Completed covers will be dispatched from May 8 1995. The offer is available in the UK only. No claims for loss in transit can be made after 60 days. *The Times* cannot be responsible for returned goods lost in transit. The offer is subject to availability.

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive future offers from *The Times* or companies approved by them. ☐

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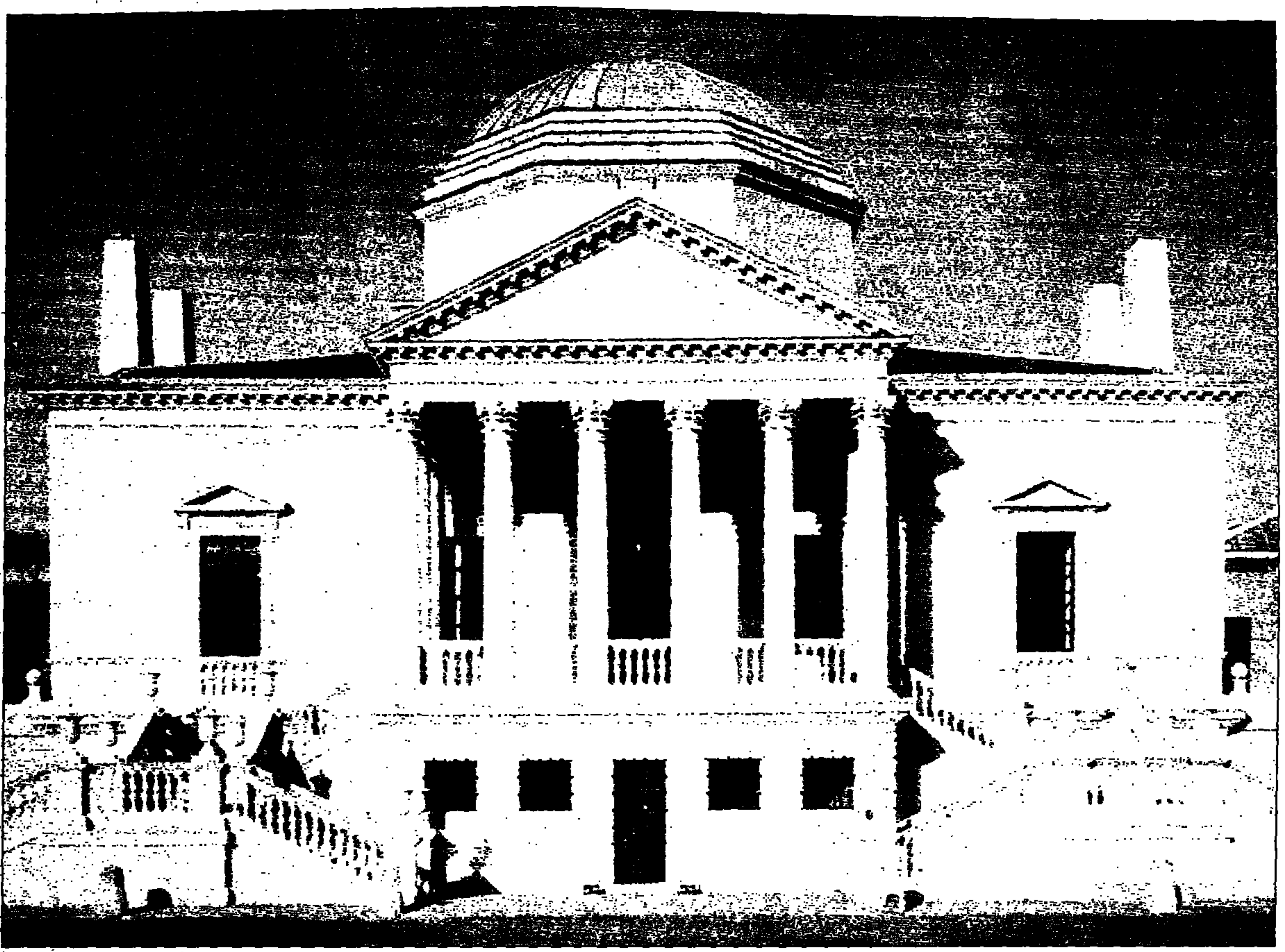
Passport to Britain's treasures



See how the other half lives: dramatic Tarosay Castle on the Isle of Mull, top left, and opulent Chiswick House in west London, above

Journey through five centuries of history this summer with *The Times* and a range of exclusive concessions at 100 stately homes, castles, monuments and abbeys

This summer *The Times*, in association with pensions specialist NPI, has joined English Heritage and the Historic Houses Association to *offer readers unprecedented* access to Britain's national heritage.

Building on the success of last year's Treasures of Britain campaign, which provided an invaluable boost to Britain's privately owned historic houses, the 1995 project has been expanded to *include monuments*, abbeys, castles, palaces, stately homes, manor houses, country parks and formal gardens.

From June to September, readers will be able to visit 100 historic sites in England, Scotland and Wales at bargain prices — just collect *six* tokens and send off for your Times/NPI Passport to the Treasures of Britain.

Production of the passport at any participating site will entitle the holder to a range of discounts and concessions, including two *tickets for the price of one at most* properties. The passport can be used as many times as holders wish.

With the *passport*, readers will receive a handsome pocket guide to Britain's *heritage, describing* each participating property. Discounts worth *hundreds* of *pounds* are available.

Planning a foray into history could *not be simpler*. To aid readers, *The Times* will publish a Treasures of Britain *special events* column each Saturday in the *Weekend* section from May 13 until the end of September — and *starting today*, *Car 95 is* publishing 16 AA-recommended tours around the best of the nation's historic landmarks.

> 'By attracting visitors, properties can be preserved for future generations'

Each week, the special events column will tell readers how to obtain discounts on re-enactments, lectures, and open-air theatrical *and musical performances* at great houses, manors and castles. And since this promotion is designed for the whole family, *there will be* special events for children too, including a teddy bears' picnic at Audley End in Essex over the weekend *of June 24/25*.

The Times/NPI journey through 5,000 years of history begins with **Stonehenge** in Wiltshire, Britain's *most famous ancient* monument. Built between 3100 and 1100 BC, the henge is one of the world's *most remarkable* engineering feats and still a place of pilgrimage for many New-Age travellers.

Every property listed in The Times/NPI Treasures of Britain *guide is worth* a visit, *but some* sites are simply unmissable:

☐ **Forde Abbey**, near Chard in Dorset, was founded as a *Cistercian monastery* in 1140, then converted to a private house in the mid-17th century. It is a spectacular building, and its 30 acres of *garden are outstanding*.

☐ **Tintagel Castle** in Cornwall is the stuff of legend — King Arthur and his knights are said to have dwelt *there*. See *the ruins* of the great hall, built in about 1145, and the 13th-century iron gate.

☐ **Blenheim Palace** at *Woodstock, Oxfordshire*, was *built by* the Duke of Marlborough after his victory at Blenheim in 1704. It is the greatest baroque mansion in England, and its park, landscaped under the direction of Capability Brown, is superb.

☐ ***Chatsworth*** *at Bakewell, Derbyshire*, was built for the first Duke of Devonshire between 1687 and 1707. It houses a world-famous *collection of paintings and furniture*. The garden has eleborate waterworks, surrounded by a 1,000-*acre park*.

☐ **Nunwell**, on the Isle of Wight, allows a glimpse of history *on a more intimate* scale. Set in beautiful gardens with fine views of the channel, the house has Jacobean and Georgian wings, and there is a Home Guard museum on site.

☐ **Dalemain**, near Penrith in Cumbria, is a *medieval, Tudor* and Georgian house, occupied by the same family for more than 300 years. Indoors, there is a fine *furniture* and *portrait* collection; outdoors, an exceptional array of old roses.

☐ **Abbotsford House** at Melrose, Borders, was the home of Sir Walter Scott. It still contains artefacts collected by him.

☐ **Powderham Castle**, *near Exeter*, Devon, was built by Sir Philip Courtenay in 1390, and is still occupied by his descendants. The *siege of the castle in the* Civil War led to substantial alterations in the 18th and 19th centuries.

☐ **Chiswick House**, west London; is an exquisite palladian villa designed by Lord Burlington and William Kent in 1734.

☐ **Stokesay Castle** *at Craven* Arms, Shropshire, is a fine 13th-century fortified manor with its own timber-framed Jacobean *gatehouse*.

☐ **Osborne House**, on the Isle of Wight, was Queen Victoria's seaside residence. *It was built in 1845* and Prince Albert played a prominent role in its design. It is *crowded with bric-a-brac, paintings* and furniture.

☐ **Cadhay** at Otter St Mary, Devon, was first mentioned in the reign of Edward I. The current house was built in 1550, retaining the great hall, with its fine timber *roof, of an earlier house*.

☐ **Housesteads Roman Fort** in Northumberland is the best preserved Roman troop base on Hadrian's Wall. Relics are displayed in the on-site museum; a model shows the layout of barracks *and granaries*.

☐ **Dover Castle**, Kent, has been the scene of military activity since *the Iron Age. The great keep*, Roman lighthouse and war tunnels are particularly interesting.

☐ ***Torosay Castle***, *on the Isle* of Mull, is an early Victorian house set in lovely gardens, surrounded by spectacular scenery.

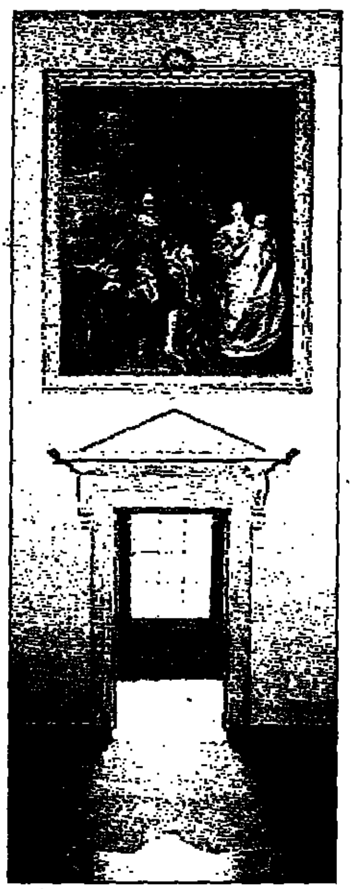
☐ ***Penhow Castle***, *near Newport* in Gwent, is the oldest occupied castle in Wales. It was the first home in Britain of the Seymour family, ancestors of Jane Seymour, King Edward VI and the Dukes of Somerset. Since 1973, the castle has won several awards in recognition of its fine restoration. Highlights include the only restored Norman *bedchamber in* Wales, a 15th-century great hall and a Charles II panelled dining room.

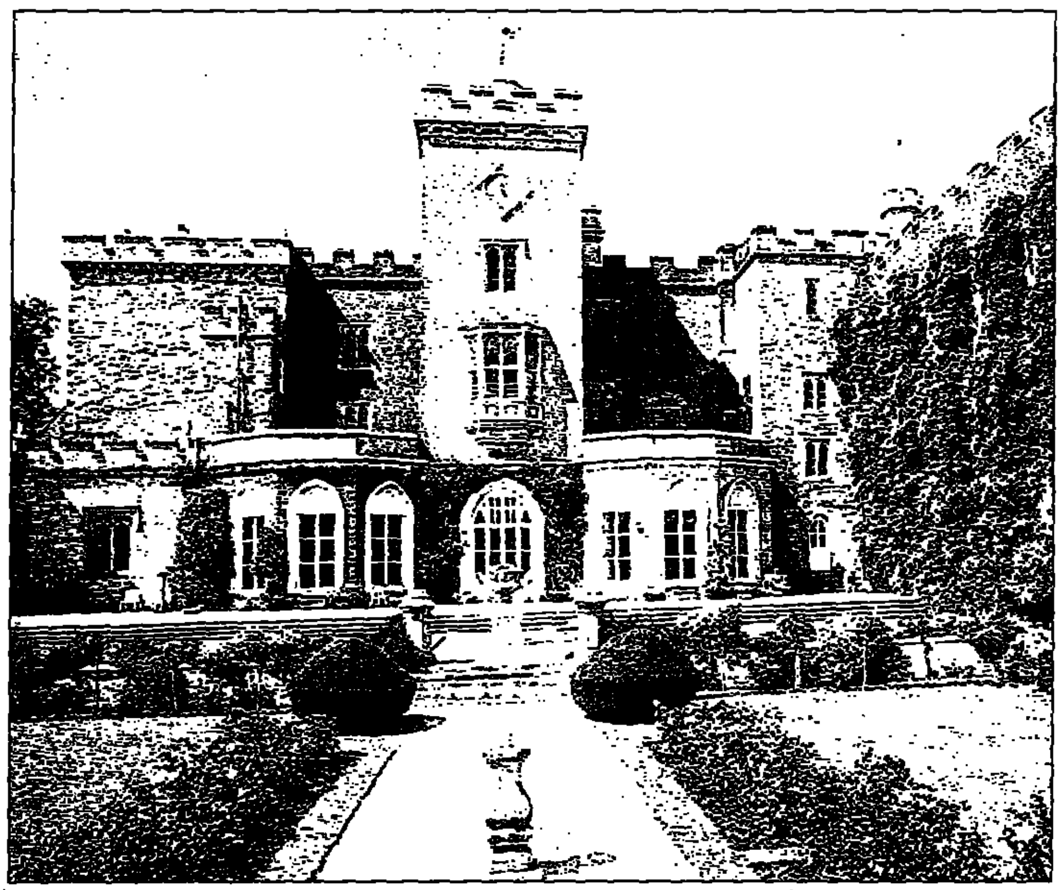
☐ ***Bickleigh Castle***, near Tiverton in Devon, was a Royalist stronghold. See its 11th-century detached chapel, the oldest complete *building in the county*.

☐ **Walmer Castle** in Deal, Kent, was built by Henry VIII and was the official residence of the *Lords* Warden of the Cinque Ports, including Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and the Duke of *Wellington*.

☐ **Fasque** in Laurencekirk, Grampian, was the home of William Gladstone, *four times prime minister*. It boasts the largest cantilever staircase in the world and a perfectly preserved *laundry*, bakery, and buttery.

Make a point of visiting such properties this summer: *The Times*, NPI, *Historic Houses* Association and English Heritage are all committed to the care and conservation of our heritage, and by attracting visitors, properties generate funds that are ploughed into restoration work for the sake *of future generations*.





Housing on a grand scale: one of the expansive rooms in Chiswick House, left, and Powderham Castle *in Devon, built in 1390*

WHERE TO START

TO *launch the Treasures of* Britain campaign, English Heritage will throw open the doors of more than 400 *properties during* the weekend of June 3/4. Entrance will be free to all passport-holders and their children on those days.

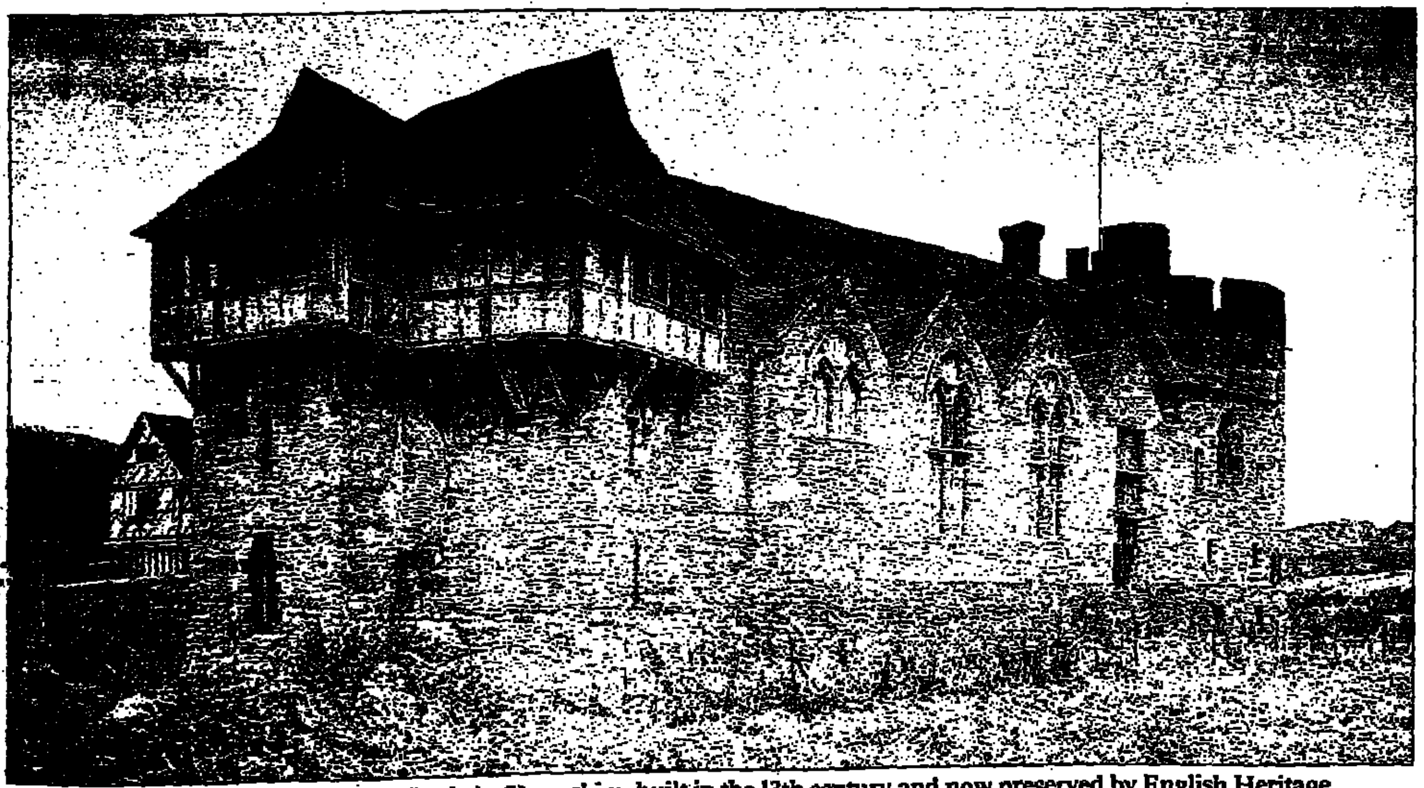
On May 6 and 8, *The Times* will publish brief details on most of the sites in two articles. Plan your June weekend itinerary from these — you will need both *editions* for a complete reference list.

☐ For the next 16 weeks, *The Times* will publish tour *guides in Car 95 for the* independent traveller, each incorporating heritage sites featured in the Treasures of Britain campaign.

Compiled by the Automobile Association, the guides describe *places to visit en* route and list recommended restaurants, b&bs and hotels. The first tour guide *appears on page 3 of Car 95* today. AA Roadwatch will provide details of roadworks and *hazards* to avoid.

WHAT TO DO

TO receive a passport, simply collect six tokens from *The Times. Thirteen will be* printed, starting today and continuing until May 13. Then complete the coupon below and send it with the six tokens and a loose, first-class stamp to: The Times/NPI Passport Offer, Spero Communications, PO Box 349, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6YU.



Steeped in history: Stokesay Castle in Shropshire, *built in the 13th century* and now preserved by English Heritage

TREASURES OF BRITAIN APPLICATION FORM

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TREASURES
OF
BRITAIN
PASSPORT

To obtain a Times/NPI Passport to the Treasures of Britain and a guide describing 100 English, Welsh and Scottish properties participating in the scheme, complete the panel below and send the form, enclosing a first-class stamp and six tokens, to The Times/NPI Passport Offer, Spero Communications, PO Box 349, Maidstone, *Kent ME15 6YU. The guide includes details of the concessions available, and the* passport also entitles holders to free admission to 400 English Heritage sites on the weekend of June 3/4

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NPI TREASURES OF BRITAIN CAMPAIGN

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive future offers from *The Times* or companies approved by them. ☐

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TOKEN
ONE

SOUTH AMERICA: Follow in Darwin's footsteps in the Galapagos or trek through Costa Rica's rainforests

STILL PICTURES

The islands are a nature reserve, offering protection for the famous giant tortoises

Nature in the raw

About 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador lie the volcanic Galapagos islands. They will forever be associated with the giant tortoises which give them their name, and with Charles Darwin, who visited the islands in the 1830s aboard *HMS Beagle* to study the flora and fauna.

The early history of the islands, first discovered in 1535, was one of buccaneers, piracy and whaling. The giant tortoise population was nearly destroyed by these plunderers, who carried off the huge creatures — able to live for months in the hold of a ship — for their meat and oil.

Today, an enlightened Ecuadorian government has ensured that the Galapagos islands are a protected nature reserve. The whole area is a national park, with limited human settlement and strictly controlled tourism. Trained guides accompany every tourist group. Visitors must not stray from the marked trails, and touching or disturbing the mammals, fish or birds is forbidden. So is the discarding of rubbish on land or sea.

The guides are firm but tactful and there is no feeling of coercion. It only takes a second's thought to realise that these rules result in the endearing tameness of the animals and birds, and the welcome absence of plastic, paper or any other form of human detritus. Very few other tourist destinations can boast of such conditions.

The islands are home to 58 bird species, from penguins to the flightless cormorant. Among the reptiles, marine and land iguanas sunbathe on the rocks or perform a sort of press-up on their prehensile legs, a sign of territorial possession.

For sheer ubiquity, the sea lions are unrivalled. Completely tame, they sprawl on the beaches, jetties and landing stages, and have to be shouted at to clear a space for an approaching dinghy. They enjoy swimming with humans, sometimes peering playfully into a startled snorkeller's mask.

> ❛ Dolphins swoop beneath the boat's bows ❜

The fascinated snorkeller will also see shoals of tropical fish, small (allegedly) harmless sharks, giant stingrays and marine turtles (only slightly smaller than their land brethren).

Beneath the bows of a boat under way, dolphins swoop and swerve, while farther out to sea, packs of pilot whales surface and submerge in sinuous patterns.

The best way to see the islands is by boat. We travelled on the *Beagle III*, a 68ft yacht with double cabins for five couples. The crew were friendly, including the excellent cook, who served Scots porridge for breakfast.

We motored from island to island, stopping for guided walks in the early morning and late afternoon. In between there was time for snorkelling, resting, or reading.

Voyages last a week or a fortnight, according to choice. The two-week trip allows time to visit the outlying islands, and the opportunity of seeing giant tortoises in the wild. Otherwise, you see them in a natural, though confined, setting at the Charles Darwin Research Centre on Santa Cruz island.

Most holidays to the Galapagos include a few days on the Ecuadorian mainland, where you can enjoy the magnificent mountain scenery of the Andes, and the boisterous capital, Quito.

FRANK GILES

● *The author travelled with Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions, 8 Comeragh Road, London W14 9HP (0171-381 8638). A week on the* Beagle III, *with two nights in Quito, costs from £2,195. Five days on the mainland plus a week on the* Beagle III *costs from £2,695, flights included in both cases.*

Rhythm of the jungle

Squeezed on both sides by vast expanses of ocean, Costa Rica is a singular finger of land which combines the demotic delights of Central America — bars of questionable descent, strong alcohol, lively women with too much make-up, beans and rice and plantains — with a rich treasure-trove of nature not yet spoilt.

The howler monkey with its startling cry — half wail, half growl — is the banshee of the dark and fragrant forest world and may be the thinking traveller's favourite ape, but there are other things in the rainforest even more magical than this vociferous creature. In Sarapiquí (in the northern lowlands), on the Osa Peninsula near Panama, or in Caño Negro on the Nicaraguan border, the forest is home to an opera of vivid chirps, grunts and hisses.

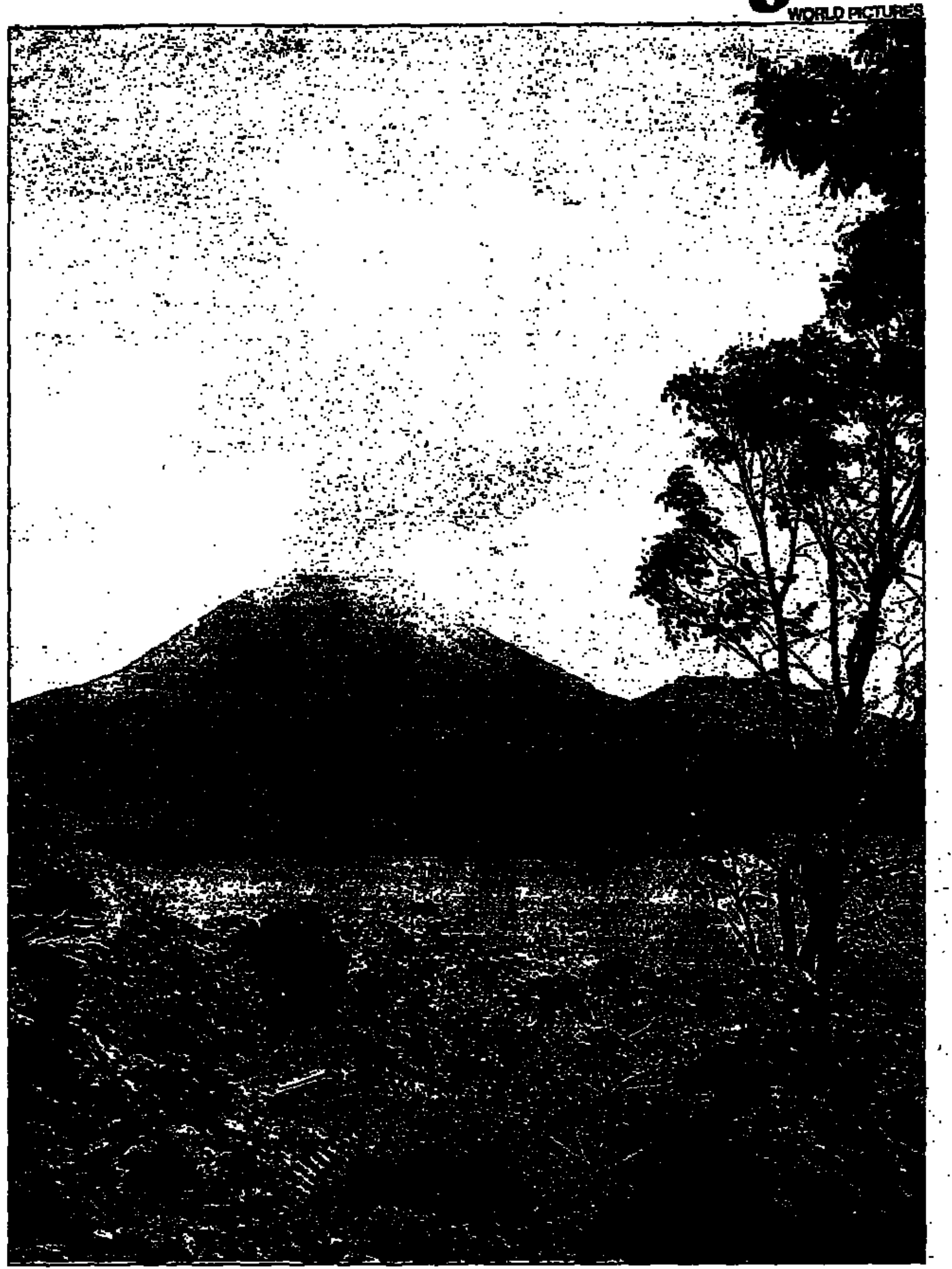
The *ticos* — as the Costa Ricans refer to themselves — are proud of their tiny country, and with good reason. Not only has it largely resisted the lure of quick money by keeping at bay the full force of logging and mining conglomerates, it is also the most stable place in Latin America and a country which is becoming an increasingly popular holiday destination.

A pacific temperament and a glut of lush forest has ensured that all Costa Ricans are garrulous and gracious. "Pica" Benavides, my guide at the Tilajari Lodge near the Arenal volcano, was the perfect example.

I got to know Pica as we embarked on a hike to the heart-stoppingly pretty Fortuna waterfall. For most of the way, he spoke of the restorative qualities of *guaro* — the national drink and source of all my rainforest-sized hangovers — and all the dishes in the national cookbook.

At the base of the cascade, after salivating our way through some hazardous tracks, we stripped and plunged into icy, frothing water. There, submerged, we talked of women: Pica revealed to me that this was where he had "won over" his fiancée, Shirley Barbosa. "It was the solitude," he said, "and the song of the waterfall." Later, we dried ourselves on the rocks in the sun — as iguanas do, or peccaries — still shivering from the memory of cold water on our skin.

WORLD PICTURES

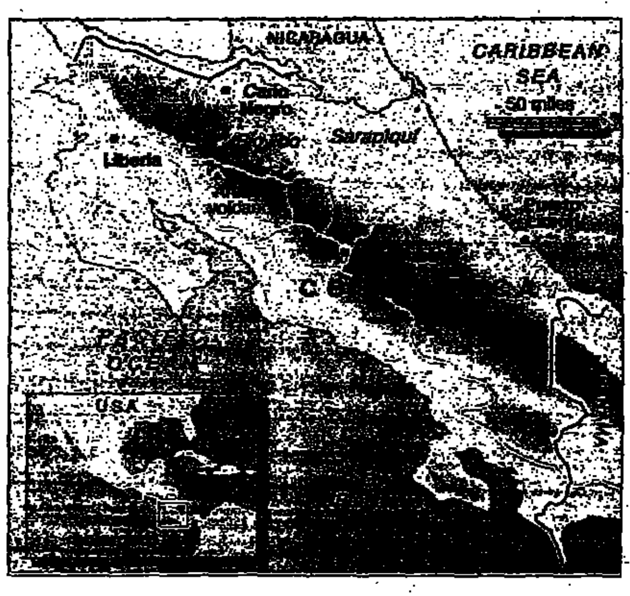


The Arenal volcano in Costa Rica is active, and rumbles like an angry, mythical beast

Of course, there is some water in Costa Rica into which you plunge at your peril. Like the Río Frío. On the border with Nicaragua, the country's tragic northern neighbour, the river is clogged with caymans; and at the point where the river meets Caño Negro, the bird-rich wetlands where all the ornithologists want to go, there seemed to me to be more cayman under the boat than water.

Their profusion, however, was as nothing compared with the density on the Río Frío of bird life. I saw kingfishers; olivaceous cormorants; every conceivable kind of egret (some of which could have been blown across from Africa in a storm); little blue, great blue, boat-billed, tiger, and green-backed herons; anhingas, trogons and roseate spoonbills. You do not have to be a bird-watcher — I am not one — to be entranced in a matter of minutes by the spell of plumage, call and flight.

Entrancing, too, and eerie, are the country's volcanoes. Arenal is active, and rumbles like an angry, mythical beast. Orosí is dormant, and rumbled only after my fourth glass of *guaro*. At the Hacienda Los Inocentes, whose quiet loveliness I cannot forget, I watched the volcano in fading light as I smoked and talked with my new-found friends.



Fidel Castro López was the barman there. A Nicaraguan, as many in low-paid jobs are in Costa Rica, he lamented the state of his native land which lay beyond the Orosí. If there is a dark side to Costa Rica, it is the growing tension between *nicas* and *ticos*.

The *ticos* resent the influx of these impoverished people from across the border — people like Teresita Somarribas, a *nica* I met in the Plaza de la Cultura in San José, Costa Rica's capital. She used to be a secretary in Managua: as we ate lunch together in a restaurant nearby, I saw that she now had the chafed hands of a housemaid.

It was Teresita who told me about San José's theatres: the city has more theatres per head of population than New York, she said with an awkward pride. Costa Rica was not her country, but she did not mind one bit that it was "better than America" at something. We went together to a farce that night — *This Corpse Is Not My Business* — before she returned by bus to the suburban home of her employers.

Although the richness of San José's urban culture was an unexpected treat, it is nature, teeming and flamboyant, which gives the visitor his juiciest feast. At Marenco, on the Osa Peninsula by the Pacific Ocean, I wished for night never to come; and at night I never longed for the next day. There, in the most propitious solitude, I slept to the whispers of the rainforest and awoke to the sight of a toucan on a branch outside my mesh window.

Lulled into bliss, I fell in love with all the guides, particularly the one who spoke to me in smiles and perky phrases of her childhood in a nearby village. I wanted to leave her a copy of a book of poetry I had bought in Liberia, in the parched north of the country by the Orosí volcano. But I could not find her as I finally left.

The book was by Miguel Fajardo, a young Costa Rican poet. Two lines made me sit up as I read it on my last evening in the lap of the rainforest: "*This is the world where they extol God and also rant against his reign . . . Our belief rests in a glass of water.*"

For that moment, at least, all belief lay in my glass of the best Costa Rican *guaro*: I drank deeply, wiped droplets of the liquor off the fringe of my moustache and observed the Pacific sun dissolve into distant waters.

TUNKU VARADARAJAN

Fact File

☐ The author was a guest of Reef and Rainforest Tours, 3 Moorashes, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5TN (01803 866965).

☐ The 19-day trip, exclusive of international flights, costs £1,495. Return flights to Costa Rica by Continental Airlines start from £550.

☐ Hotel Le Bergerac, San José (00 506 2347850); Selva Verde Lodge, Sarapiquí (00 506 766077); Tilajari Lodge, Muelle (00 506 4699091); Hacienda Los Inocentes, La Cruz de Guanacaste (00 506 395484); Hotel Las Tortugas, Santa Cruz de Guanacaste (00 506 6800765); Marenco Biological Reserve (00 506 2211594).

The Houses and Gardens of

MADEIRA

A visit for those who love magnificent houses and gardens with some of the world's most varied and exotic flora in an unmatched volcanic island setting – 7 nights from £772.00

All things conspire to aid the gardener on Madeira: the weather is balmy, temperature fluctuations are small both from season to season and day to day, the rainfall is obliging most of the year and is supplemented by a network of small irrigation canals called levadas. Add to this a volcanic soil which readily forms a deep rich loam . . . and one has all the elements which have attracted the indefatigable English horticulturalist for many a decade.

The estate owning classes have been able to harness all before them to create fantastical confections where hugely varied flora races upwards and outwards. All those impossibly difficult specimens are not coaxed into life, but merely contained in their luxuriance. On Madeira, the flowering season is year-round.

During our week-long stay we shall visit a variety of gardens and great houses including Quinta Palheiro, situated in the hills above the capital, Funchal, and will be for many the centrepiece of an exotic week. One wanders in enchantment discovering trees from all parts of the world: sequoias, magnolias, cedars, ginkos and tulip trees. In dense shrubberies, roses and clematis of all kinds grow through numerous rustic arches, the fragrance is enhanced by leucospermums, leptospermums, gardenias, freesias . . . the list is seemingly endless.

We shall also visit Quinta da Bom Sucesso, the island's botanic garden. The panorama is immediately striking, the viewing points and platforms on the turns of the winding paths stretch out into thin air revealing vistas of Funchal far below.

THE SAVOY HOTEL

With panoramic views of the mountains and the sea the Savoy Hotel offers a high level of service. This hotel has 350 spacious and comfortable guest rooms all with air-conditioning, a balcony, radio, colour TV with satelite and minibar. Amongst the Savoy's many facilities are two saltwater swimming pools, three restaurants, a library, various shops and a Night Club with live music.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Afternoon flight from London Gatwick to Funchal. Transfer to the Savoy Hotel: there will be a short introductory talk before dinner.

DAY 2 Visit the Quinta das Cruzes, the English Church and the Museu Frederico Freitas. Afternoon at leisure.

DAY 3 Drive into the mountainous hinterland to visit the estate of the Blandy family at Quinta Palheiro. During the orchid flowering season visit Quinta da Boa Vista.

DAY 4 Morning at Quinta do Monte, the village of Monte and the Parc do Monte. An opportunity to return to Funchal by basket sledge if you wish.

DAY 5 Full-day tour to the north and west coasts. See Cabo Girao, the world's second highest sea cliff, Ribeira Brava and Paul da Serra in the mountainous interior table land. Lunch at Porto Moniz on the exposed and stormy northwest coast. Here the sea has eroded strange and grotesque shapes from the soft rock outcrops; there are fine pools, caves and inlets to explore. It is from here too that the worst of the incoming Atlantic weather is deflected by the steeply rising mountainous hinterland, leaving Funchal sheltering in its lea. Finally, travel on to Sao Vicente, along a coastal route carved into the cliff face, through tunnels and under waterfalls. Carry on south to Funchal through Ecumeada.

DAY 6 Today we have the chance to walk along the Levadas do Norte and admire the spectacular scenery. A levada is an irrigation system of small canals ensuring that fresh water reaches most parts of the island, and, as a result wildlife is attracted. An incredibly large variety of wild flowers is supported by the extra moisture.

DAY 7 Morning visit to the Welsh family home, Quinta da Palmeira. Continue to Quinta da Bom Successo, the island's botanic garden. Also visit the natural history musuem in the grounds. Take tea here on the terrace overlooking Funchal.

DAY 8 Today is free until our evening flight to London Gatwick.

J GRAHAM QUINN
THE RESIDENT
GUEST LECTURER

J Graham Quinn's long association with Madeira started in 1964. Not only has he an intimate knowledge of the island's great gardens, quintas and flora but also of the cultural life of the community. When not busy with his garden he collaborates with the Natural History Museum, London and the Museu Municipal on innumerable botanical issues and is much involved in plant conservation matters peculiar to the Madeiran archipelago.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

Mondays - per person in a twin

1995	
October 30	£795.00
November 6, 13, 20, 27	£772.00
December 4, 11, 18	£795.00
December 25	£1070.00
1996	
January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£775.00
February 5, 12, 19, 26	£795.00
March 4, 11, 18, 25	£795.00
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£795.00

All departures are accompanied (in Madeira) by a guest lecturer

SUPPLEMENTS

per person

Ocean view (twin)	£165.00
Ocean view (single)	on request
Single	*£170.00*

Price includes: return flights, transfers, half board throughout, 2 lunches, excursion programme, entrance fees, services of a local guest lecturer. **Not included:** travel insurance, airport taxes, lunches unless specified, tips. All prices are subject to change.

HOW TO BOOK

Please telephone Voyages Jules Verne on 0171-723 5066.

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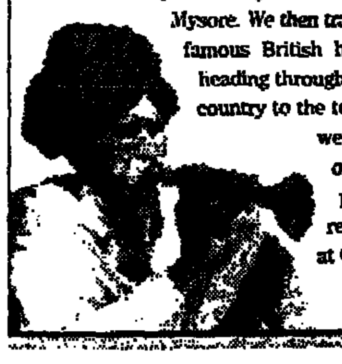

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• **Prices Per Person from £1405** • *Escorted* • *3 - 5* Hotels*
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Cox & Kings also offer a longer 18 day Southern Trails tour which visits Bombay, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mysore, Madras, Madurai, Thekkady, Cochin and Goa. Departures throughout the year. Prices from £2095

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Please send me details and a booking form.

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Cox & Kings

هكذا من الاصل

CRUISING: **Jill Crawshaw** presents a round-up of the current holiday deals

Setting sail for pastures blue

Lasting impressions: a voyage from Paris to Honfleur stops off in Giverny to visit Monet's famous house and garden

Impressions on the Seine

THE NEW Paris to Honfleur voyage from KD Rhine Cruises (01372 742033) sails along the Seine, first past Vernon, then under the ruins of Château Gaillard to Les Andelys, with visits to Monet's house and gardens at Giverny.

Continuing through the meadows and apple orchards of Normandy, the ship calls in at Rouen, and at Caudebec for a trip to the glorious ruins at Jumièges, berthing finally at Honfleur from where passengers can head off for either fashionable Deauville or impressionist Etretat.

The cruise, on board the 104-berth *MS Normandy*, can also be taken in the other direction. Either way you sleep on board for two nights in Paris with an evening cruise included.

The cost for this cruise is £1,340-£1,470 full board, including flights. There are plans to link the service with the Orient Express.

KD Rhine Cruises, whose bread and butter is seven, nine and 14-day cruises on the Rhine and the Moselle, also offers the Elbe, Danube and the Nile.

Romantic Road

GERMANY'S Romantic Road by river is an appealing idea from Swan Hellenic (0171-800 2300). The *Rembrandt van Rijn*, with its 90 passengers, takes 11 days to meander down the gently bucolic Main River from Nuremberg to Basel in Switzerland.

En route there are visits to some enchanting towns and villages that read like a medieval roll-call: Nuremberg; Wurzburg; Bamberg with its heady mix of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque; my own favourite — the fairy-tale walled and gabled Rothenburg; Heidelberg; the Black Forest capital of Freiburg. The trip ends with an excursion to the Rhine Falls at Neuhausen.

As on all Swan Hellenic European river cruises, there are guest lecturers on board. The fully inclusive price is from £1,725-£1,865.

Canals and Archipelagos

TWO BOATING holidays from Scantours (0171-839 2927) feature little-known European waterways. Original steamers dating back to 1874, converted for 60 or so modern-day passengers, chug the 350-mile Göta Canal from Lake Vänern to the Baltic, to link Sweden's main cities Gothenburg and Stockholm.

The canal steamers take four days, navigate 65 locks, drift past great lakes and private gardens, forts and convents, market towns and medieval villages, with lots to interest canal enthusiasts.

The seven-night holiday with three nights on board and two nights each in Gothenburg and Stockholm hotels costs £890, including flights, with full board on the ship and B&B in hotels.

A four-day 30,000 island cruise on Stockholm's Archipelago in the small 25-passenger *MS Vindbaden* explores the islands, skerries, beaches, fishing hamlets and farming villages. You cruise and swim during the day, and stay overnight in manor houses and hotels on the waterfront.

Ports of call include Arbolma, Sandhamm, Utö, Bjorkosund and Bullero. The cost is £1,010 for six days with two nights in Stockholm, all meals on board and flights included.

Floating Claret

THE 1920s Norfolk-built and recently converted *Christina Lynn* was one of the pilot cutters that used to meet ships coming up the Gironde to unload their cargoes of sugar and pick up wine. She now carries six passengers and six crew on floating claret tours in Medoc and St Emilion, with Champagne breakfasts and private lunches at châteaux en route. There's an open bar on board, and a dinghy and fishing equipment is provided.

The week-long cruise is operated by Arblaster & Clarke (01730 893344), and costs £1,084-£1,485 half board without flights (which the company can organise at extra cost) as well as stopovers and other wine visits.

The same firm arranges holidays on barges through the vineyards of Provence, Burgundy, Alsace and the Canal du Midi. The barges sleep between seven and 12 passengers, and are crewed by a captain and cook.

These holidays can be booked by groups or individuals from £790-£1,160 per person (exclusive of travel) in a twin cabin for six nights on board with all meals, drinks, bicycles, daily excursions on the barge's own minibus.

Cruises in Burma include visits to famous pagodas

The Nile Beyond

FOR MOST tourists, the Nile ends at Aswan, with navigation beyond cut off by the High Dam. But now, the luxury vessel *M. S. Eugenie*, constructed in 1993 in the style of a turn-of-the-century steamer, cruises along Lake Nassar and through lower Nubia from Abu Simbel to Aswan.

Voyages Jules Verne (0171-723 5066) offers a four-day cruise until June with various visits along the river that even regular Nile travellers haven't seen for decades, such as the Fortress of Kasr Ibrim, and the avenue of sphinxes at Wadi El Seboua. The week's tour costs £695-£750 including flights and three nights full board afloat, as well as two nights' B&B at the Luxor Sheraton, and another two at the Old Cataract in Aswan.

During the spring and summer, Jules Verne operates a number of unusual European voyages: the River Douro, formerly used by the port wine lodges, is the tranquil route of the *MV Lady Mary's* odyssey upstream from Oporto to Tua, where the river narrows to a gorge and a smaller day cruiser takes passengers on up to the Spanish frontier at Barca d'Alva. The week, fully inclusive, costs £820.

The opening of the waterways between St Petersburg and Moscow allows the *MV Kirov* to link these two great cities on a seven-day cruise on an intricate system of waterways which include the Neva and Volga rivers, the White Lake, Lake Onega and the Baltic Canal. The landscape is of silver birch and pine, spectacular late sunsets interspersed with cities and towns of Holy Russia that still preserve their medieval castles and wooden churches. The highlight for many is the 22-domed Church of Transfiguration on Kizhi Island. The cruise costs £1,120 for ten nights, full board and flights.

Fjord Steamers

NORWEGIAN coastal voyages (known as the Hurtigruten) are not for the black tie, bingo or ballroom dancing brigade, but for those interested in the nuts and bolts of working ships on a regular route thorugh some of Europe's most spectacular scenery.

Steamers leave Bergen every day of the year for the 1,000-mile journey beyond the Arctic Circle to Kirkenes, three miles from the Russian border. The round trip takes 11 nights. The ships are often the lifeline, postman and local bus for the 34 ports en route, delivering dishwashers and fridges, tomatoes, mail and passengers. They do also carry holidaymakers, but cargo comes first.

The steamers vary in size and comforts (which are never lavish), with between 230 and 500 passengers, and in the summer months there are guides on board with excursions available at extra cost. The most popular time is between mid-May and mid-June when the *Midnight Sun* is at its best. Prices for the trips, which include the flights, a night ashore in Bergen and full board, are from £1493-£2813, from Norwegian State Railways (0171-321 2048).

Mozart's Danube

LUXURY afloat is the common denominator of Cunard's "Great Rivers of Europe" cruising programme on the Rhine, Danube and Elbe, in association with Peter Deilmann Cruises (01703 634166).

On the five-star *Mozart*, the largest of its vessels in Europe, there is a heated pool, whirlpool, sauna, boutiques, air-conditioned cabins and state rooms with TV, as well as lavish eating.

The itinerary along the great cities of the Danube includes glittering Vienna and Budapest, the ornate and graceful Passau, the Benedictine Abbey at Melk, stately Esztergom, and Durnstein where Richard the Lionheart was reputedly held hostage during the Crusades. Prices for full board and flights are from £1,145-£2,035.

The lately rediscovered Elbe also has some dazzling if starker architectural towns along its banks. On a week's cruise you can visit the Baroque masterpiece of Dresden, Meissen, Wittenberg where Martin Luther sparked off the Protestant Reformation, Pillnitz and Bad Schandau. There are optional excursions to Prague. The week's cruise on board the *Dresden* costs from £1,330-£2,270.

Road to Mandalay

LUXURY cruises in Burma on the Irrawaddy River start in November on the *Road to Mandalay*, the former KD Cruise Line ship now being revamped to carry 137 passengers between Mandalay and Pagan.

Historic sights, local markets and visits to some of the most famous of the country's golden pagodas are on the itineries, with provisional prices of between £1,170-2,150 for full board, but excluding the return flights to Bangkok. These cruises are operated by Eastern and Oriental Express (0171-928 6000).

Resort fit for a king

There is more to Majorca than lager louts and high-rise blocks — just ask the Spanish monarch

We sat on the low wall at the edge of the farmyard and looked over the olive groves and the orange trees to the foot of the grey cliffs which rose dizzily at the other side of the valley. High above in the clear blue sky circled the majestic shapes of six black vultures, each looking, as the birdbook put it, "like a tea-tray in the sky".

The finca the birds were effortlessly surveying lies in a hidden valley on which the past four centuries have left little mark. This is literally a sweet place, with its barn holding the season's harvest of six tonnes of honey, the tile-roofed buildings dominated by a tall round tower built as a defence against the Barbary pirates. The marauders used to come up from the sea to lay everything waste at fairly regular intervals.

Today the only protection is a tail-wagging Pyrenean mountain dog, on a long chain, who guards the mule stables at night and makes sure that no uninvited guests wander into the self-catering apartments in the old olive press.

We agreed there was nowhere in Europe where you could feel more remote, closer to medieval roots, nearer to primeval nature. Everything was completely still in the midwinter sunshine, with only an occasional burst of song from a warbler in the orchards or the dull clonk of a sheep's bell to break the silence.

None of it had been conjured up by the brochure description of our holiday: Palma city break — three nights in a de-luxe hotel in Majorca for only £265.

Most people have a picture of this Spanish island in their mind's eye: hot strips of crowded beach in front of high-rise hotels, the narrow streets raucous with disco bars and rampaging youths.

However, it is good to report from the tourist battleground that the reality is still, in places, delightful. The King of Spain comes here for his holidays, and he should know.

In low season Majorca is brilliant. Bargain flights and discount accommodation make it easy to reach and cheap to enjoy. Only a few miles up the road from the busy resorts which welcome six million people every year, there are places as remote and charming as Guillermo Oliver's finca at Balitx d'Avall, in which you can book a half-board room for £26 per person per night (Finca Reservations 00 34 71 430674; fax 431368).

If you've ever wondered why that sprinkling of rather elegant women and sophisticated Panama-wearing men were waiting in the lounge to board the British Midland flight to Palma (0345 554554; £125), a few of hours in the island's northwestern mountains will give you the answer. This is one of the most pleasant of all the readily accessible bits of Europe, especially at that time of year when a Mediterranean holiday is a really sensible idea, in very early spring or late autumn.

Stay in Palma, where you can eat very well and stroll by the harbour or sit in the great cathedral, the largest medieval Gothic space in Europe. Hire a car (£21 a day) and explore, making certain you visit the best hotel on the island, Richard Branson's La Residencia at Deyá, where two manor houses have been converted into a superb hideaway on the hillside; float in the pool, contemplate lunch in the Michelin-starred restaurant. It's in the Sovereign brochure (0161-745 7000), with prices currently starting at £507 for a week, including flights and car rental. Delicious spot.

A vineyard in Binisalem

For a feeling of a rather old-fashioned Majorca — more like the island described in the BBC radio extracts from the 1920s travelogue *Jogging Round Majorca* — try Scott's in the square at Binisalem. Judy and George Scott have created a delightful antique townhouse which Castaways (01737 812255) has voted one of their top three on the island.

WILLY NEWLANDS

● *The author was a guest of the Balearic Islands Tourist Council and stayed at the four-star Melia Victoria in Palma. A week's B&B costs £484 with Thomson (0171-707 9000). Further information: Spanish Tourist Office, 57-58 St James's Street, London SW1A 1LD (0171-499 0901).*

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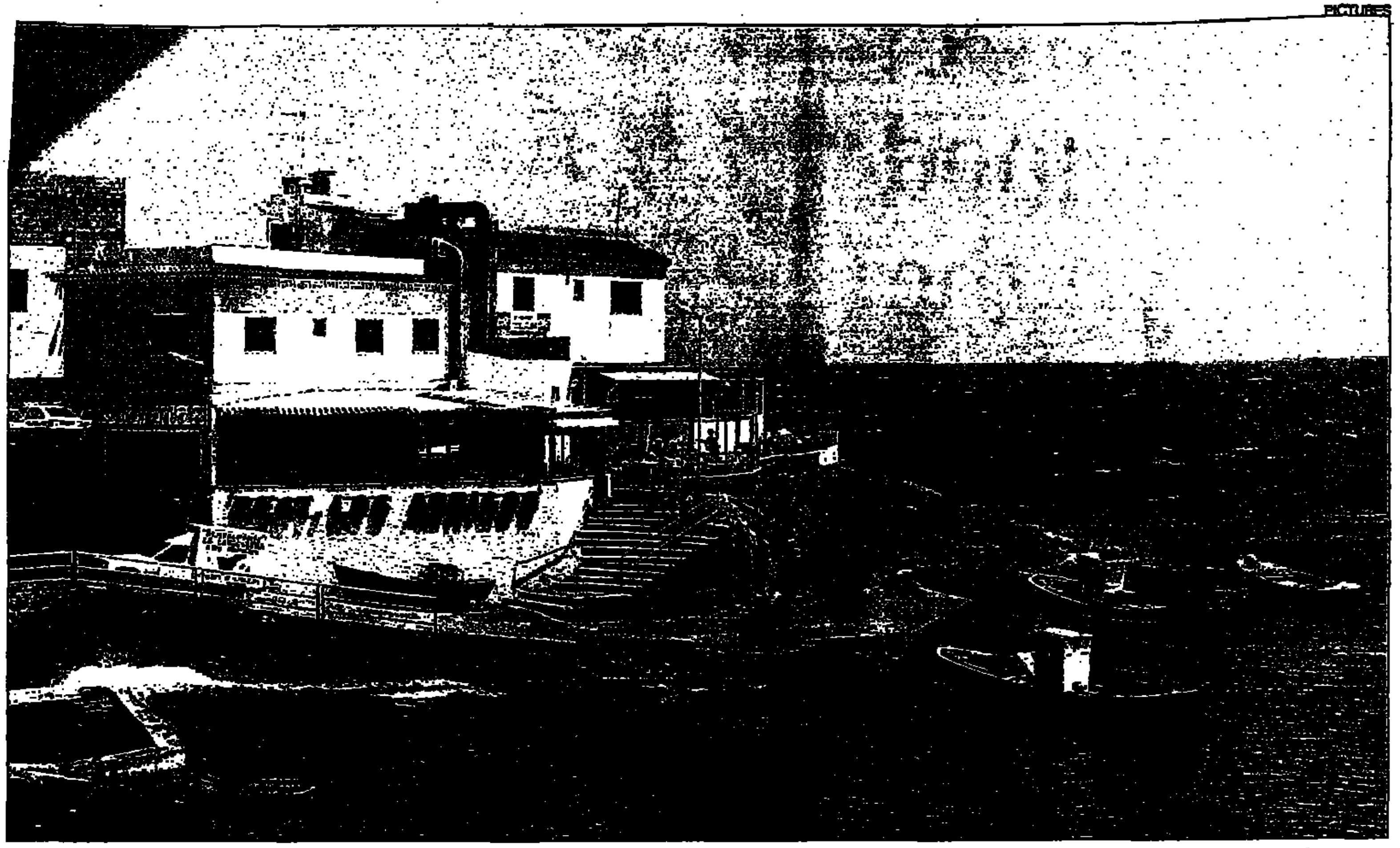
CANARY ISLANDS: Never just another Costa, the archipelago has more to offer than sun, sea and sand



PICTURES

Away from the tourist beaches and gaudy hotels you can sample the real Tenerife, with its peaceful fishing villages, such as Los Abrigos

Peace among the forgotten isles

As the ferry headed towards La Gomera, the white lumps of Tenerife's tourist hotels and apartments faded into the haze behind us and the dolphins began leaping around the boat. This was the place for someone seeking a quiet haven away from either the British cold and damp or the relentless commercialism of Tenerife.

La Gomera remains one of the least visited of the Canaries, with only a couple of hotels of any size. A mere 20 miles across, the island has a volcanic, mountainous landscape ranging dramatically from sub-tropical to alpine within a few minutes' driving. With no eruption for two million years, the hills inland show few signs of lava flows. Instead, keen walkers can enjoy the central Garajonay National Park with its forests and flowers, the spectacularly terraced hills, the villages which make few concessions to tourists, and almost guaranteed year-round sun on their backs.

PICTURES

Spectacular terraced hills on La Gomera

The best place to stay is a gem: the low-level Hotel Jardin Tecina perched on a cliff near Playa de Santiago in the south and, despite nearly 500 rooms, does not feel oppressively large. A large team of gardeners tends the dazzling array of flowers and shrubs, and there are all the amenities for a relaxing stay. Food at Club Laurel, down a lift to sea level, is first rate. Children have a mini-club and nursery — as well as their own pool — while adults go on organised walks or dives in the clear blue sea. Visitors do not go to La Gomera for the beaches (which may be its saving grace), though there are some bays with volcanic sand — the best probably around Valle Gran Rey in the west.

The Fred Olsen company, responsible for much of what development there has been on La Gomera, has plans for another hotel of even higher quality nearby. There are advanced plans for an airport too, which has the backing of most of the locals but which will do nothing for the present aura of peace on the island.

The ferry rides from Los Cristianos on Tenerife are frequent and take only 80 calm minutes. You land at San Sebastian, notable for being the last place Christopher Columbus stayed before setting off for the New World. Car hire, reasonably priced, is recommended to get about, because buses are limited. (The *Sunflower Countryside Guides*, £5.99 and £8.99 from Sunflower Books, with information on car tours, walks, picnics and bus timetables are valuable handbooks for the serious nature-loving explorer of this island, or of La Palma.)

Not many British people have heard of La Gomera; probably fewer still know La Palma, another of the hidden Canaries. Only about 30 miles long, La Palma offers pleasures similar to its neighbour as well as arguably the most beautiful mountainous scenery in the whole Canary archipelago. There is excellent touring and walking in La Caldera de Taburiente National Park with its breathtaking volcanic crater or along the chain of volcanoes running down the spine of the drier south. One of these, Teneguia, erupted as recently as 1971, the sinister black path of lava miraculously curving away from a nearby village.

There is no hotel here to match the Tecina in La Gomera, but Puerto Naos on the west coast offers a four-star beachside hotel and adjoining apartments, and Santa Cruz de la Palma has a variety of places to stay too. You can fly into La Palma, usually from the northern airport in Tenerife, on one of the six flights a day.

TIMOTHY RICE

● *The author was a guest of Sunworld (0113 2361502), the only major UK tour operator to feature La Palma (October to April only). A week half-board at the four-star Sol La Palma Hotel in Puerto de Naos starts at £479 (child £305); self-catering apartment with use of hotel facilities £349 (child £99). A week at La Gomera at the Jardin Tecina starts at £455 (child £389) including transfer, through Sunworld. Other operators also feature La Gomera.*

In the world of Atlantis

The first British tourists to visit Tenerife were rich but sick; they made the long voyage 150 years ago in search of restorative winter sunshine. More recently, this beautiful volcanic island, the biggest of the seven in the Canary archipelago, has been seen in Britain as a chip off the Costa block. Now £500 million is being invested in a more upmarket development.

The weather is a natural asset. When we arrived in late March at the Reina Sofia airport in the south of the island, the temperature was around 70F; it rarely goes below 68F or above 74F. From the mountain ridge, which is the spine of Tenerife, you can watch clouds forming as the cold Atlantic air meets the warmth of the land, a phenomenon known as "horizontal rain". The clouds do not clear the ridge; hence the cloudier, greener north and the almost perpetually sunny, drier south.

The southern landscape, bleak and brown as if scoured by a giant Brillo pad, is short on charm. Lunch in the fishing village of Los Abrigos raised our spirits, with a delicious selection of fresh squid, prawns, whitebait and mussels dipped in paprika and garlic sauces. But not everything is local. Much is imported from Spain, usually referred to as "the mainland" despite being the best part of a thousand miles away. Africa, a mere 186 miles distant, is scarcely mentioned.

Puerto de la Cruz, on the lush, palmy northwest coast of the island, is a good base. We stayed at the Atalaya Gran in the Parque Taoro above the narrow streets of the old town. Nearby is Loro Parque, home to gorillas, tigers, dolphins and 3,000 parrots.

The central, hilly, forested part of the island provides endless scope for walkers. We were driven to La Esperanza Forest (such excursions can be organised at the hotel) and walked the six miles down through the Canarian pines. It was chilly but peaceful, with the clouds wreathing the trees like smoke. Franco rallied his troops in this forest and there is a memorial to prove it.

When the Spaniards arrived in the Canaries in the 1490s they discovered a stone-age tribe who embalmed their dead but hadn't invented the wheel, who feared the sea and did not use boats. Their enigmatic circumstances lend credence to legends of Atlantis. British visitors may be interested to know that Nelson lost his arm in a battle here; the preserved limb can be seen in the museum at Santa Cruz.

Parrots at Loro Parque

The highest point on the island is the volcano, Mount Teide. The peak, often snow-capped, rose during volcanic activity 300,000 years ago leaving a vast, craggy lava field, the Canades, around the mountain. We clambered on weird rock formations and paid our respects to the peak from a distance — a cable car will take you to the top, if you have the heart (and lungs) for the ride.

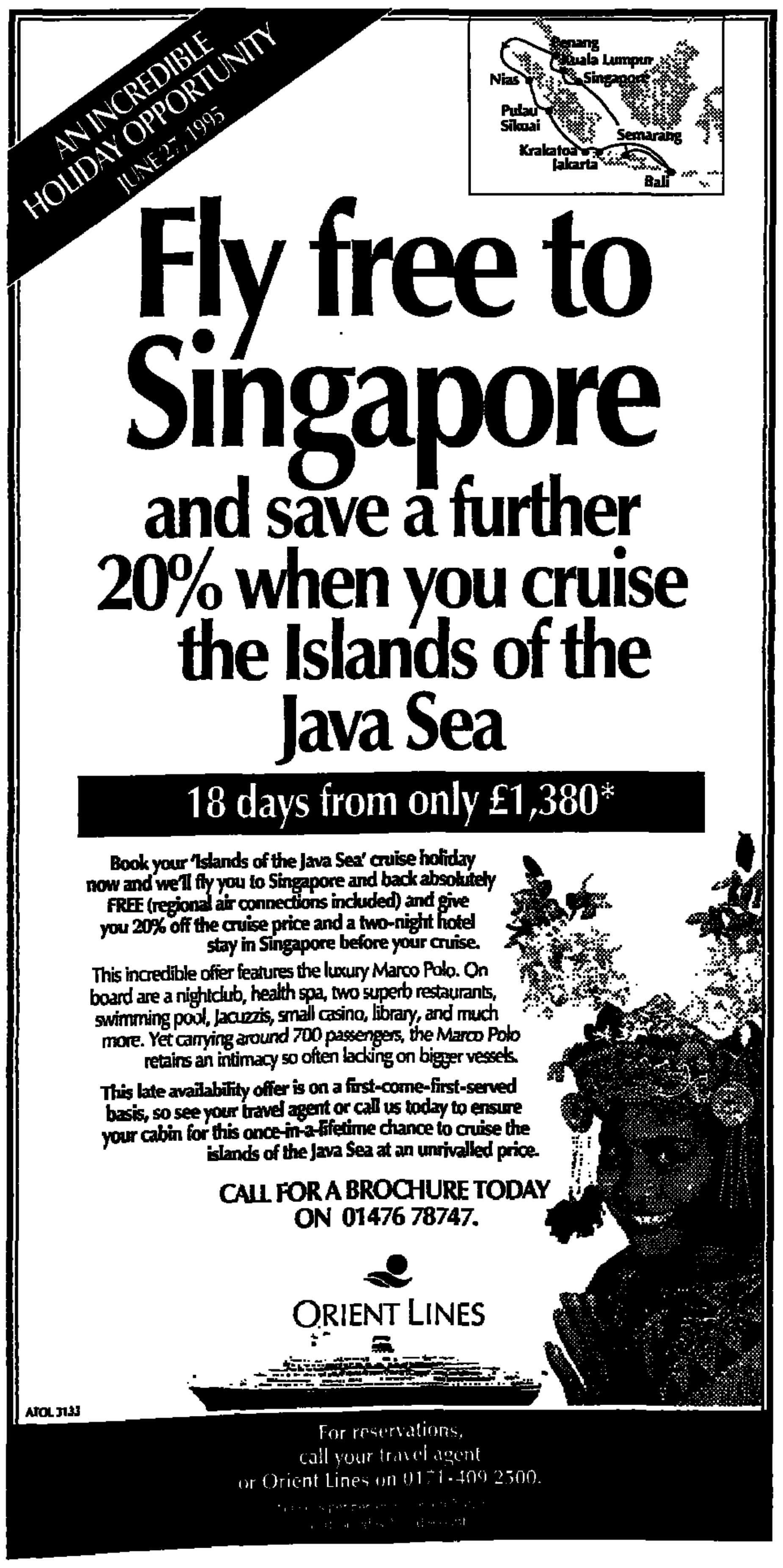
Food in the hotel restaurants was always excellent, in the charming, family-run Tigaiga in Puerto de la Cruz, with its botanical collection in the grounds, and at the elegant, old-world Mencey, favoured by the Spanish royal family, in the capital Santa Cruz. Vegetables are few, but there is an endless variety of meat and fish in original sauces. In the south, at Playa de las Américas, the Sir Anthony puts on a mouth-watering buffet in opulent, *Dynasty*-style surroundings. The Jardin Tropical holds the prize for best restaurant in the islands. From the sautéed king prawns on a bed of spinach with grated Gruyère to the crisp and soft chocolate confection, dinner was perfect.

Outside, the neon-lit coastal strip of Playa de las Américas pulsates with the sound of rock music. Every few yards there is someone, usually under 20, always English, offering inducements to enter his or her disco or pub. At Bonkers, a scratch duet extolled various drugs to the tune of "Old Macdonald's Farm". There is said to be a drugs problem on the island, but we saw little sign of it.

As for the beaches, not all are volcanic black. The golden sand of La Teresitas was transported from the Sahara to make a playground for the capital. Now, Santa Cruz has other plans, including an exhibition centre and a winged concert hall inspired by Sydney's Opera House. There is already a big-name annual music festival and the February Carnival is said to be second only to Rio's. And sports fanatics can add two new golf courses to the impressive list of facilities.

HEATHER NEILL

● *The author was a guest of The Magic of Spain (0181-748 7575 or 01233-211611 for 24-hour brochure hotline). A seven-night stay at the four-star Atalaya Gran costs from £434 (£645 at the five-star Sir Anthony), including flights, transfers and B&B. Tailor-made itineraries can also be organised. Entrance to Loro Parque is about £10 a day (children up to six free).*



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NEWMARKET: Sporting sights to enjoy before next Saturday's 2000 Guineas

A sure bet for a good day at the races

At the stables, visitors watched a video of a foal being born the previous night, then saw it skipping about in the paddock

Newmarket is an obvious choice for a day at the races, though you have to race through the day yourself to fit in all the attractions — an early-morning visit to watch the horses moving out to the gallops, a tour of the National Stud, and a trip to the National Horseracing Museum in the High Street, next to the Jockey Club.

The Suffolk town was established as the sport's headquarters by the Stewart kings, in particular Charles II. Now there are 59 racecourses in Britain, offering 900 racing events a year. The sport employs 30,000 people directly, with a further 70,000 in the betting business. After digesting these relative figures I revised my afternoon's gambling allowance, downwards.

By the 1830s, newspapers such as *The Times* had begun to carry reports of race meetings, and the sport boomed when the railways made access to racecourses easier. Later, the sport of kings appealed to Lily Langtry, the Prince of Wales's mistress. She owned stables at Newmarket and her riding boots are on display in the National Horseracing Museum.

Also in the museum are stories that Dick Francis would hardly dare to invent. Here is the film of the suffragette throwing herself under the King's horse in the Derby of 1913; here, too, the story of the jockey Fred Archer, who began racing at the age of 12, was Champion Jockey 13 times in 17 years and then, in 1886, when he was 29 years old, took a gun and shot himself.

There's the stuff of more novels at the nearby National Stud. I hadn't expected a coach ride as part of the stud tour but, then, there are 500 acres to cover. Slipping the coach into gear, the driver, Fiona, announced: "I'm your guide and I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have. Just don't ask for a tip for this afternoon; I've been so busy I haven't had a chance to look at the runners."

The coach paused at the stallions' graveyard, where the most famous of all the stud's names, Mill Reef, is commemorated with a statue. "Mill Reef was worth about £20 million," Fiona said, "and to have a mare covered by Mill Reef would have cost the owner £100,000."

The stables at the stud have padded rubber floors and walls for the horses' protection, and security padlocks and cameras.

Our party learnt that the stallions are called on to do their duty twice daily, and that there's a depression in the Covering Room floor to allow for the fact that not all horses are of the same height.

We watched a video recording of a foal being born the previous night, before seeing the same foal skipping about on its pipe-cleaner legs in the paddocks.

At the racecourse at last, I grabbed a steak sandwich. At £2.80 it was probably worth more per ounce than Mill Reef ever was. My suggestion is that you take a picnic and relax as you study the form.

Everything about the racecourse seems to happen at a faster pace than appears on television and, by the time one winning owner has collected his booty, the next set of horses is out in the parade ring and it starts all over again.

It's in the ring that the toffs meet the scruffs, where you really do see characters who sound like Bertie Wooster or look like Arthur Daley. It's Dickens and Dick Francis, an outdoor Stock Exchange, with a spiv in a suit whispering into a mobile phone, "What's it showing?"

The jockeys file into the parade ring like the seven dwarfs — there's Lester Piggott, Willie Carson, Pat Eddery — chat to the owners and trainers, and saddle up; then everyone else swarms into the grandstands.

After a few hours of this, I felt as if I'd run in the 2000 Guineas — or perhaps one of Newmarket's lesser-known races, such as the Jeyes Fluid Handicap or the Danepak Bacon Handicap, which don't quite have the same ring.

Place your bets at the Tote window, or with one of the bookies in front of the grandstand. With their cash bags and blackboards, and names such as Morry Levy and Taffy, this is racing just as you imagined it. The tic-tac men frantically wave their hands as if fighting off a swarm of wasps. A grumbling punter studies the odds on neighbouring blackboards and wanders off muttering, "You can still get tens."

Before you know it, "They're off" — again. You watch through binoculars and listen to the commentary over the Tannoy. You can't fail to get involved as the horses near the winning post. The noise swells and you find yourself yelling "Come on, come on." And even if your horse doesn't make it and your fiver's lining the bookie's pocket as, now, you knew it would, well, there's always the next race. Back to the Parade Ring. Damn it, this sport is addictive.

MIKE GERRARD

Newmarket Festival details

☐ The three-day Newmarket Festival — Friday, May 5 to Sunday, May 7 — is planned to coincide with two big races — the 2000 Guineas (May 6) and the 1000 Guineas (May 7). There will be concerts, exhibitions and displays of East Anglian crafts and trades. (On June 3 there will be a Newmarket Countryside Race Day.) Details from Newmarket Tourist Information Centre (01638 667200).

☐ Admission to Newmarket racecourse costs £9 or £11, depending on the meeting; children under 16 free. There is a free car park for 10,000 cars. For further details call 01638 663482.

☐ The National Horseracing Museum (01638 667333) is open from March 28 to December 3, Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday noon-4pm. (July/August, Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday noon-4pm). £3.30, children £1, over-60s £2.

☐ Visits to the National Stud are available until September 30 at 11.15am and 2.30pm on weekdays, 11.15am Saturday and 2.30pm Sunday. Visits must be pre-booked (01638 663464) and cost £3.50, children under-five free, concessions £2.50.

☐ If you prefer your day at the races to be organised, or would like to see behind the scenes, British Thoroughbred Tours (01638 660212) and Hoofbeats (01638 668455) can arrange trips, including stable visits, when possible.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL TIPS

THE British love affair with Spanish beach holidays shows no sign of cooling. The costas and islands have all been heavily booked since the start of the year, says Lunn Poly, Britain's largest travel agent.

Florida is doing well after several years of poor bookings following reported attacks on tourists. The Dominican Republic is tipped to be *the* destination this year and is expected to attract more Britons than even Barbados.

Malta, which normally attracts about 3 per cent of the estimated annual 14 million overseas package holidays, is down by a third this year. Lunn Poly recommends that bargain hunters consider Malta, Cyprus (where bookings are also down) and France.

For those who do not need to go away in the peak school holiday times, Lunn Poly (0293 454245) offers some attractive last-minute deals. For example 14 nights in Turkey in a self-catering apartment costs £449 per person (you must buy LP's travel insurance), and seven nights self-catering in Corfu for £350.

In a cooler vein, the Norwegian ski resort of Voss, which has lots of snow and few late-season skiers, is sending delegations to Britain to promote spring skiing.

"We have two metres of excellent snow and the best skiing conditions of the year but hardly any skiers. It almost makes me weep," says Einer Raa Nilsen, of the Voss ski school.

Norwegians usually hang up their skis after Easter, but for the past two seasons there has been good skiing well into May.

☐ Waymark Holidays (01753 516477) is offering a competitive fly-drive package to Lyon in France from May 21 until the end of September. Scheduled BA flights from Heathrow for two people and a week's car hire cost from £199 per person.

☐ Holts' Battlefield Tours (01304 612248) still has some places left on its trip to Berlin, Colditz and Potsdam, from September 13 to 17, for those wishing to commemorate VE late. The price of £699 includes half-board in a four-star hotel, BA flights from Heathrow to Berlin and guided tours by coach. Those more interested in the American Civil War could join Holts' 11-day trip to see the largest ever re-creation of the battle of Gettysburg (with address). The tour leaves on July 3, and costs £1,535 per person, with flights, tours and B&B.

☐ For a quiet weekend in May, rent one of four Rutland Water Cottages (01780 64001) at Edith Weston, on the banks of the lake. A three-night break for four, including heating, electricity and bed linen, costs £165; three nights for two, £130.

☐ Children under 12 can stay half-price at Binibeca Vell Villas on Menorca's south coast through CV Travel (0171-581 0851), leaving on May 5, 12 and 19. One week costs from £320 per adult, with flights from Gatwick, and maid service.

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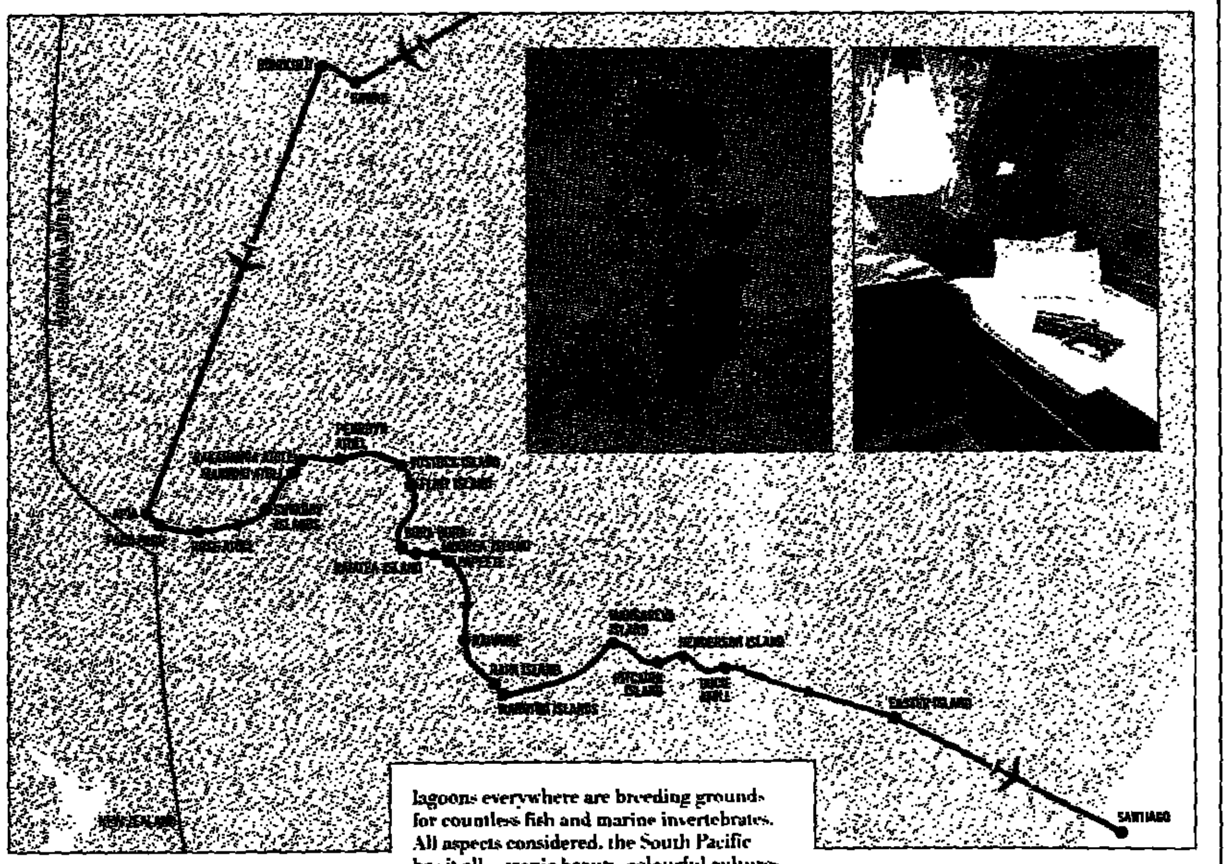

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The name 'Polynesia' means 'many islands' and no one could argue with the suitability of this title. Using our Zodiacs, explore the islands of low lying coral with their contrasting volcanic mountainous structures of incomparable beauty. The surrounding waters are clear and the rich sea-life lends itself perfectly to snorkelling and diving. Many islands are important nesting grounds for seabirds and sea turtles and the lagoons everywhere are breeding grounds for countless fish and marine invertebrates. All aspects considered, the South Pacific has it all – scenic beauty, colourful cultures, welcoming people and a fascinating natural history.

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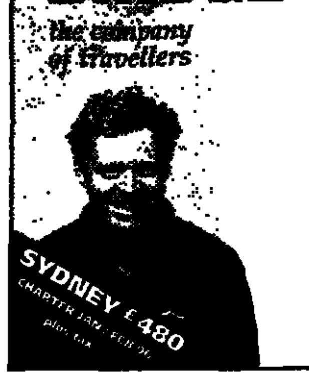

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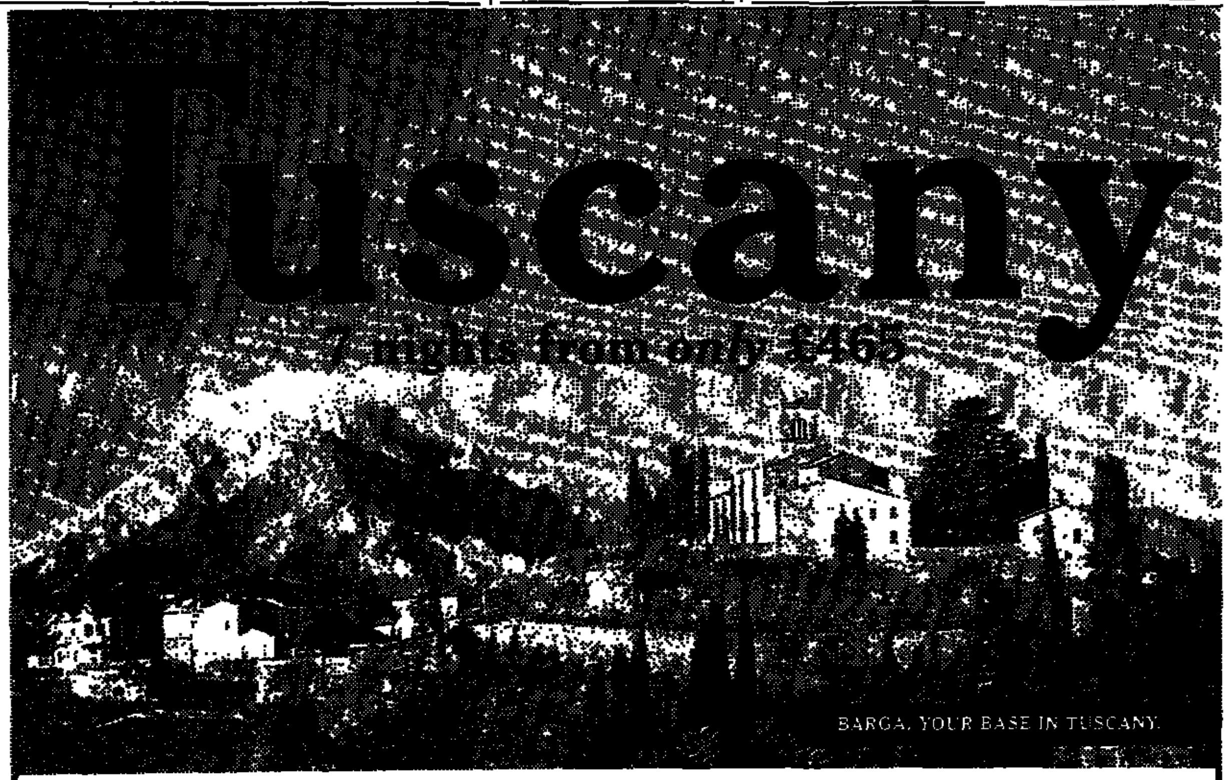

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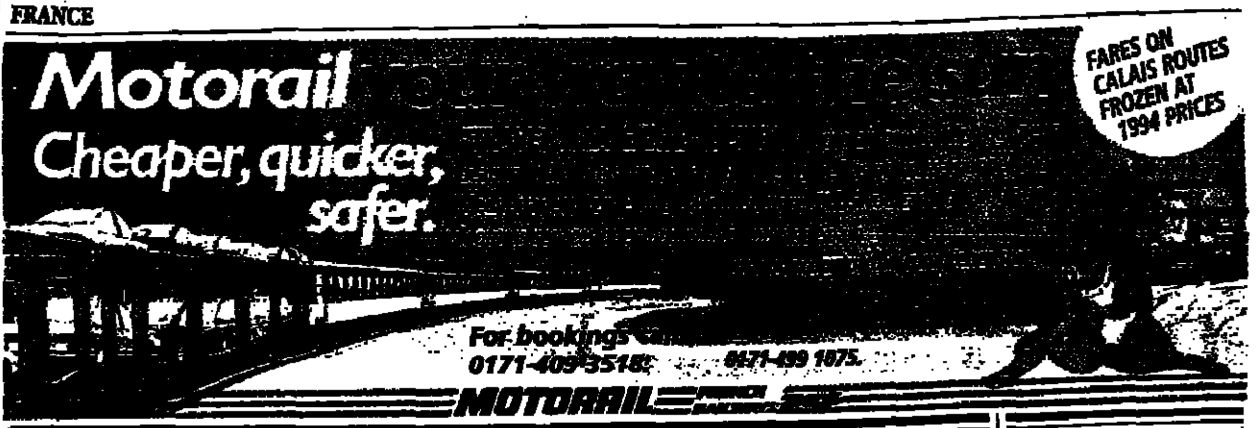

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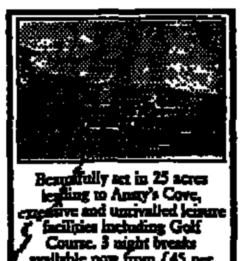

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CYCLING: A leisurely ride along the Danube in Austria and a 500-mile trek from Bordeaux to Barcelona

Tales from the riverbank

It must have been seven or eight when I last held a pair of handlebars, but the prospect of spending a couple of days in Austria seduced me into going on a cycling weekend. I was to join a small group for a leisurely ride alongside the River Danube. It sounded a pleasant way to combine gentle exercise and a dose of fresh air with a chance to get a good look at the blueness of the famous river.

Two weeks before I was due to go, reality intruded. What on earth was I doing taking up a sport I hadn't tried for 30 years? "Don't worry, you never forget how to do it," said my non-cycling friends in unison, along with that other helpful comment "you'll need some black lycra shorts". It was time to take a closer look at the itinerary.

The cheering fact was that the distance from the start point of Schärding to the finish at Linz was a modest 86 kms, (53 miles) spread over two days — and described as easy to achieve by anyone of average fitness. The not-so-cheering fact was that there was no way I could be described as being of average fitness.

The prospect of lagging miles behind everybody else or the ultimate embarrassment of seizing up altogether was enough to get me down to the gym for a few sessions on the cycling machine.

A Friday morning flight to Vienna connected swiftly with a fast train to the beautiful baroque town of Schärding, leaving plenty of time to admire the architecture and linger over a delicious dinner in the small family-run hotel Zur Stiege. My companions turned out to be frighteningly experienced cyclists and my stomach sank as they disappeared to change into their "skins" before our bike-fitting. I needn't have worried; the Austrian bike, a standard three-gear touring machine, is a great leveller.

Over the next couple of days I discovered that the Austrians like their cyclists — they get special lanes in towns, special carriages on trains and there are hotels and guest houses that specialise in accommodating cyclists. But the highest recognition comes from the Austrian Government, which decided that the tow path along the Danube, no longer used by horses pulling barges, should be turned over to cyclists. No mountain bikes are allowed (Austria has plenty of mountains for them), nobody wears helmets, and smog-protectors might never have been invented.

However short the distance travelled, it's impossible to miss some sign that for 500 years this has been a path of missionaries and warriors, merchants and scholars, diplomats and travellers. Our stretch of the Danube took us to Passau inside the German border, a town uniquely positioned at at the confluence of three rivers (the Danube, Inn and Ilz) with a history of more than 2000 years.

We visited the 13th-century monastery at Engelszell, where its Trappist monks produce liqueur; watched the Danube flow in opposite directions on either side of the Schlogen Hill; and finally, at Linz, where in Roman times the traders trekked along the Danube to market their produce, we lingered in the fashionable shopping arcades.

With modern times come modern aids, and today the Danube's path has clear directions for tourists and quality inns for pit stops. But, as you enjoy the unhindered pedalling, you'll look at that grand old river and know that it will last much longer than us and our machines. I wonder how many old bikes are in it?

THERESE GORDON-DUFFY

● *The author was a guest of the Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461). Unaccompanied tours can be booked through Inghams (0181-785 7777) and Thomson (0171-707 9000). A six-day tour along the Danube costs from £435 (May) to £513 (July), including flights, supplementary travel and bike hire.*

The Engelszell monastery where Trappist monks produce liqueur

Geared for a challenge

The thunderstorms crackled and rolled around the mountains. Our tents tugged at their guy ropes in the blustery rain. But by dawn the storm had gone. An hour later the sun glowed on the peaks from an azure sky.

High in the Pyrenees nearly 90 of us were cycling on a two-week, 500-mile journey from Bordeaux to Barcelona. I had joined the tour halfway, at Luchon, a Pyrenean spa resort a few miles from the Spanish border.

By then the party had been travelling for nearly a week through the forests and gentle farmland of southwest France.

A strong camaraderie had built up as friendships formed among this mixed group. They were fit and had eaten some memorable restaurant meals. Having reached Luchon, all were keyed up for the mountain challenge.

Each day's route was shown on a map and instruction sheet, with marker arrows placed at junctions on the road — though we were soon to discover poetic licence in describing the gradients. Riders started off when they were ready.

The back-up from our tour "crew" was reassuring and practical. They set up the breakfast and tea tent — the social focal point — at each stop, and a roving mechanic and a nurse drove. Our guide, Alex Badell — originally from Barcelona — was a Catalan speaker, and there was a van to carry our kit each day.

The climb from Luchon, on a quiet, twisting road took the best part of the morning. A few gung-ho riders stood on their pedals and reached the unmanned border at the summit, 650 metres higher, without stopping. The rest of us paused to admire the view and get our breath back. After a brief stop we freewheeled blissfully down the other side of the mountain to Bosost, where we stopped for coffee. Our camp site that night was at Arties.

We were in Spain, in the Vall d'Aran, but had yet to cross the physical divide, the River Garona, which flows northwards into France to become the Garonne. Until the Viella tunnel was built in the 1940s, the valley was remote, linked to the rest of Spain by a single mountain road.

The next day pitched the group straight into a climb that lasted for ten miles as the prosperous villages fell behind and the road swung into a series of hairpin bends. The route seemed to go ever upwards until, finally reaching the pass, we were at 2,070 metres — the highest point of the tour. What followed justified the effort: a wonderful winding downhill through pine forests and on to our next stop at Sort.

A few of the off-road bikers chose tough alternative routes to especially remote and beautiful districts where only they and 4WD vehicles could cope. "The best day's cycling I've ever had," one rider said.

For me, the most memorable part of the mountain crossing started deceptively simply, with a gentle climb up a narrow valley bathed in early morning sunshine. The road was fringed with fir trees and clumps of bamboo.

Sheer rock then hemmed us in, but, as we pedalled steadily on past old terracing, the space widened. We found ourselves turning, climbing anticlockwise for more than an hour inside a half-bowl formed by the mountains. Far below, tiny figures were barely discernible as cyclists.

At the top, blue-brown peaks brushed by a cloud layer extended into the distance. For miles the deserted road threaded round lofty buttresses and cliffs with a dizzying drop at one elbow. But now the mountains were changing, falling away to the south in ridges of smoky blue. The climate too had shifted: the air now was not alpine but Mediterranean. Wild herbs, rosemary and thyme grew at the roadside.

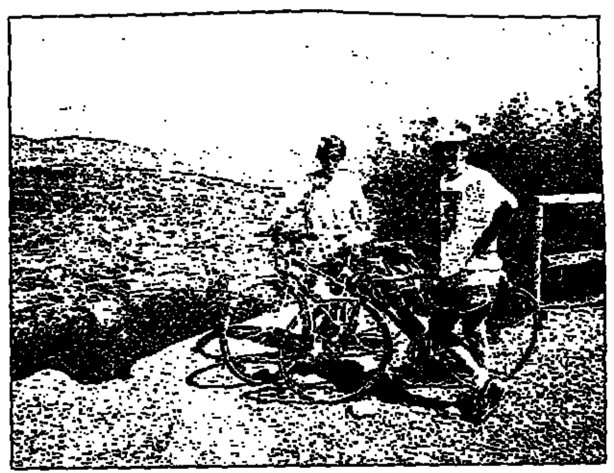
Four of us met and puzzled over the map. It looked as though we were lost until two arrows at a junction made us whoop with delight. They pointed to yet another exhilarating descent which took us, breathless, to the tea tent and dinner at Solsona.

During a stop above a valley for a picnic lunch, six of us watched as a golden eagle soared high above a peak. At first a moving speck, it grew into a dramatic silhouette as it wheeled nearer to patrol a ridge.

It was an unforgettable sight on a journey that some riders were doing for the second or third time. It was certainly the most thrilling week's cycling I have ever had.

MIKE STRUTT

● *The author was a guest of Bike Tours (01225 480130). The Bordeaux-Barcelona tour, each September, costs £510 plus £205 return rail fare (London-Bordeaux, Barcelona-London). Take your own bike and tent.*



Two of the group pause at a summit before a long descent

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NEXUS - *is for the unattached of all ages who want to meet socially* (parties, walks, holidays etc) and individually like minded people. Ring for the brochure. Head Office. (012374) 71704, (012374) 21619, (0113) 2448186, (0181) 367 6328, (01869) 338801, (0141) 221 1090, (01202) 761006, (01286) 831899 or (0121) 472 1968. Not a dating service or marriage bureau.

PARTY at London's No1 Nightspot Tuesday 2nd May, 8 til late. £10 inc complementary drink. Great venue, super people 0171 289 0220.

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UNITED TRAVELLERS for holiday/travel partner introductions 01428 722833

WEST SUSSEX male, 28, non-smoker. If Heaven is a place on Earth it would be in the shade of a tree on a gorgeous summers day with bacon sandwich, cup of tea and Sunday newspapers at the ready - and hours to kill. Looking for bright eyed, fun to be with female to share in such pleasures. *Please Reply to Box No 5568.*

LADIES

ALL else has failed, big, bonny northern lassie 39, professional, seeks big handsome northern laddie, 40s, professional for courtship, love and permanent relationship. Please Reply to Box No 5752.

ALL respondents who replied to *Box 5023 (Alluring)* before 10th April please write again

"**AM** I asking too much? Honest, kind, caring, slim, loving solvent lady of 50yrs WLTM similar gentleman" London area. Please Reply Box 5901

AN intelligent attractive creative caring slim 5'8" continental widow, London based, young 51 seeks similar gentleman for serious loving relationship. Letter & photo app. Box No 5640

ANOTHER husband not sought but this tall, spirited, *independent*, professional woman, 50s, does seek lively conversation, laughter, and shared experiences with warm, sophisticated, intelligent and funny (haha not peculiar) man. Please Reply to Box No 5897.

ARE you 48 to 60 yrs, average looking, over 5'8", perhaps Public school or graduate. I am early 40s, occasionally smoke, 5'4". WLTM you London preferably. Phone no. photo essential. Plse Rply Box 5707

ARE you a tall positive prof. man 55-65 who seeks an attractive, slim, n/s, mature, sensual Scorpio lady partner with a lively personality who is loving and caring? Me Surrey/Hants. Reply with photo to Box 5879.

ARTS graduate. Bubbly, warm, caring, attractive, feminine (50's). Interests include music, theatre, travel, country pubs, cooking seeking unattached, well educated, professional man. S. East. Box No 5672

A STRONG individual needed to match my chequered life. I am mid 40s, young outlook, solvent, slim, pretty, caring, romantic and professional, seeking my soul-mate who is emotionally and financially secure. 48-55ish n/s. GSOH. and a gentleman. North West/Cheshire. I will travel if necessary. No fanatics. Photo ensures reply. Box No 5862.

AT last I've had the courage to leave "The World's Favourite Airline" and now have time to devote to making new friends or finding a companion. I'm attractive, tactile, fun loving and fit. I'd love to meet someone similar. *I enjoy all the usual* things but especially travel, sailing and entertaining. You should be in your 40's or 50's preferably in the London or South Devon area. Please enclose a photograph and I will reply. Box No 5702

ATTRACTIVE, divorced, n/s, professional lady, with no ties, late 40's, financially independent, WLTM tall, nice looking, financially secure gentleman for fun and friendship. Enjoys all the usual things, but needs someone to share them with. London & surrounding areas. Please Reply with photo to Box No 5771

ATTRACTIVE Widow 50+, a company Director wishes to meet a gentleman of similar status age 45-55, for companionship non-smoker. Interest: Theatre, dining out, travelling reading & keep fit. Photo/Tel. number much apprec. London/ Surrey only. Box No 5641

ATTRACTIVE educated woman(49), elegant and feminine, seeks successful English or Continental man early 50's in Manchester/Cheshire area for stable relationship. Travel /residence France/Spain /Italy eventually desired. Box 5682

ATTRACTIVE gentle, kind lady, Sussex based. Slim, 5'7", stylish, 40, N/S. Happy and placid disposition. Varied interests. WLTM a kind sincere and discerning gentleman. Please Reply to Box No 5545

ATTRACTIVE female 47, self employed, n/s, unattached WSOH & intelligent. Hoping to meet similar male who is kind and also looking for friendship and love. Wales & SW probably. Plse Reply to Box No 5626

ATTRACTIVE lady, 43, enjoys travel, theatre, town & country, dining out, disco's, gardening. WLTM solvent professional gentleman for friendship & social outings. Please Reply to Box No 5877.

ATTRACTIVE Notts lady 26 seeks male early thirties with prospects to share the good things in life. Photo guarantees reply. Plse Reply Box No 5544

ATTRACTIVE vivacious educated well travelled lady 50's, many interests seeks gent to share her life. Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 5601

ATTRACTIVE petite, professional, Asian female, 30s, seeks male for honest caring relationship. London area. Box 5569.

ATTRACTIVE blonde, 2 arms, 2 legs etc. seeks single 30 something man. London. Box 5788

BEAUTIFUL slim young early 50s ex-diplomats wife, originally from the Orient 5'5½" prof seeks n/s European with int background 48-62, 5'11"+, secure, kind, prof. Box 5593.

BEWITCHING vivacious professional blonde, slim attractive creative, wide interests, music, theatre, travel seeks intelligent, warm, humorous, jewish soulmate 55+. Plse Reply Box 5605

BUCKS-based woman. Prof. Youthful mid-40s. Lover of Arts (esp. music), sun, France, countryside and quality seeks optimistic, generous-hearted good looking man with whom to share adventures and love. Reply with photo plse Box 5691

BUSINESS lady 30's, personable, independent, single. Does all usual activities. Confident enough to do them alone but would prefer company. Are you a n/s not looking for immediate relationship. Manchester area Plse reply with photo to Box No 5621

CAMBRIDGE based professional woman, 34, Oxford graduate, 5'8", witty and attractive, enjoys countryside, theatre, horse-riding, travel and good food, seeks thoughtful, humorous man 28-40. Photo please. Please reply to box No 5745

CARING, professional woman, 61. London-based but flexible. Interests Greece, Rome, Dublin, literature, humour, young people, seeks caring man 50-60ish. I still want to change the world. Do you? Reply, with photo, to Box No 5548

CAROLINE unmarried, no ties, Anglo-Scot, 5'6" slim, looks good, n/s, Pub.Sch. Grad. Widely travelled. Likes World Service, conversation, arts, adventure, home WLTM sincere man around 40. Please reply to Box No 5919

CHARMING attractive young 50+ Christian woman wishes friendship with well educated n/s man with interesting conversation & fond of good music & beautiful scenery. If replying please encl a photo. London /Home counties. Box No 5805

CLASSY bird missing the good things in life wants rescuing by 50-60 knight in shining armour to share excitement of life, love etc. compatible to a warm feminine aquarian. Box 5431.

COMELY lady, youthful 62, widow, intelligent, GSOH, wide ranging cultural interests, comfortable lifestyle in East Anglia - would like to recapture the pleasure, love and companionship of a stable, compatible relationship. Please Reply to Box No 5776

CONTINENTAL lady 30, feminine, pretty, petite, slim, well travelled cultured (History M.A.) polyglot, seeks well-educated, intelligent, caring man for friendship. London area. Plse Rply to Box 5780

COSMOPOLITAN cultured, lively London lady, 50, seeks gentleman lover of all things classical, to seize the day! Please Reply to Box No 5874.

CUDDLE loving black lady 38 with no ties and own business who enjoys cryptic clues seeks a lasting relationship. Someone who has those old fashioned values, a disciplined approach but leaves time for good food, music and backgammon. A man I could love, honour and obey. London. Box No 5787

DAMSEL young 50 rejected, where is the knight of my dreams? loving warm hearted neglected, I've so much to offer it seems. I'd settle for dented armour. Imperfections I have a few. I trust he will be a charmer but a frog sporting crown will do! Surrey. Box No 5798

DELICIOUSLY attractive, Jewish woman 48 with zest for life in every way, looking for tall, attractive and very successful man with humour, integrity and intelligence. (London or near). Please Reply Box 5851.

DUSKY Italian maiden (Australian born), 32, 5'6" with superb figure and matching smile. I have an adventurous spirit, enjoy art, theatre and tennis and seek a 30-40 yr old solvent man with noble physique, kind heart, humour and style to enjoy la Dolce Vita. London /Home Counties. Please reply with photo to Box No 5625

ELEGANT Parisienne, resident London (20 years), tall, slim, attractive, 40+, graduate. Successful professional career - seeks cultured, considerate professional gentleman, 45-60 to share travel, the arts, stately homes, antiques, history, eating out and maybe more. Box 5684

ELEGANT, attractive lady (50's, 5'7", slim) enjoys walking, tennis, the Arts and adventurous/ cultural holidays. WLTM a tall, fit, humorous N/S prof man for a hopefully lasting relationship. Please call Cheryl Brown at Candleburners 0171 371 5535.

ELEGANT lady late 40's seeks affluent male for exciting times. Cotswolds. Box No 5761

ENGLISHWOMAN, arts graduate, still slim, fit and attractive at 50, seeks cultured, unattached Asian gentleman for East-West rapprochement. London/Home Counties. Please *reply to Box No 5694*

EVERYTHING I have except you: special, successful, solvent, confident gentleman, 29-55 who will travel for that special lady - Me! Please reply to an attractive, slim brunette. Financial Services Professional. Interests: fashion, music, cars, travelling. Age and area immaterial - reply in confidence with recent photo to Box No 5911

EX-OPERA singer, attractive lady with much to offer in SE England. WLTM educated n/s animal-loving gentleman. 60-70s. Box No 5718.

FIT & sporty very attractive, petite female seeks healthy, wealthy, trim professional male for togetherness, fun and whatever life has to offer. Me 32, you 25 - 37. North Wilts based. Photo ensures reply. Please Reply to Box No 5751.

FRANCE warm hearted, attractive English woman 50, Paris based enjoys arts, music, countryside, travel WLTM stimulating n/s man 50's + who spends time in France. Box No 5765

FUN 40ish prof, Lancs. lady, cheerful, curvy, self-reliant but informal seeks worthwhile single guy aged 40-55 to *enhance a busy social life. Interests* incl golf, bridge, theatre, dancing & archaeology. No old ruins need apply! Box No 5556

FUN loving 40's. Professional female seeks company of urbane, intelligent gentleman to share laughter, interesting conversation and cultural pursuits. S.W. London. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box 5430.

FUN, 40's young outlook, attractive, Pub. Sch., likes tennis, skiing, sailing, entertaining, travel. Homes Shrops/SW seeks tall intelligent romantic 50+ male for perm relationship. Box 5595

GOOD-LOOKING, living, and loving golden girl. Educated professional, semi-retired, WLTM gentleman with Conversation ability & golden voice. North E Midlands.Box No 5705

HELP No men in the staffroom. Tired teacher (OFSTED victim) tallish, slimmish, youngish (43) needs sound or better man for rejuvenation. Photo app. N.Lon. Please Reply to Box No 5743

HUMOUR imperative. Positive, broad shouldered, Big hearted *unpretentious gentleman sought* by above average 36 yr old. Curiousity, originality, vitality, love of life and people a must. Love of coast lines, crosswords, the unexpected, colour and sport a bonus. Friends who are hitched, why not thrust this at that favourite brother or very good friend who fits the bill and would be reluctant to respond without a big nudge?. 30 - 60 yrs. Enlightening replies please to Box No 5757

I am attractive, sophisticated, alluring, slim, blue eyed, continental, romantic, 40 something. You: 30 something, well built, well mannered, educated, TALL and fun, Photo essential. Essex/London. Box No 5886

I AM mid 40's with style, sophistication and lots of energy, successful Interior Designer I live in Warwks wish to meet Midlands, artistic lively successful gentleman with character, who enjoys good social times and life in general. Photo, letter and phone no. Box No 5832

IF Mozart and Metheny warm your heart, you know a desert rose from Pink Perpetue, enthuse over tribal artifacts, are male, circa 53-65, excited about life's possibilities and looking for a companion who's bright, independent and very attractive, this *East Anglian* would love to hear from you. Photo app. Box 5796

INTELLIGENT attractive, presentable man, 42-48, sought by stylish, slim, attractive and intelligent woman, to accompany her to (sometimes formal) social events. Willing reciprocate London/Cambridge. Reply *with photo please to Box 5881.*

INTELLIGENT pretty female designer seeks unattached funny romantic male 32-46 to share next weeks lottery winnings and much more! London area. Please write with photo to Box No 5565.

INTELLIGENT, attractive, slim, single lady WLTM affluent, n/s older Sugar Daddy, 55++ for rewarding relationship. West Mids. Plse Reply Box No 5785

INTERESTING Times to share with independent (own home, car, caravan) 62 yr old female Observer of life in S.W. Mids? Express your interests by Post. All Mail answered. Please Reply to Box No 5749

I want someone to love. Vivacious attractive n/s feminine slim blonde modern 48. Intelligent sincere adventurous independent no ties. Enjoys socialising sun sea boats music travel romantic dinners chocolates pink roses kisses and cuddles. Seeks long term relationship with n/s fun guy. Hants. Reply to Box No 5800

JOANNA Lumley sound-a-like. English Rose looks. Are you Ab Fab with GSOH, approximately 40-50ish? Helpful but not essential if you like dogs and Bach!! South West London. Photograph please. Box No 5907

LADY 62, intelligent, caring n/s wishes to meet grand gent for companionship, love. Suffolk. Please Reply to Box No 5872.

KATHARINE ALLEN. "The highly respected marriage bureaux" (The Independent). 18 Thayer St. London W1M 5LD. Tel: 071-935 5115

LADY 50, 5'2" would like to meet civilised English gentleman companion *(dry sense of humour) to share summer holiday. Europe or U.S. Please* Reply to Box No 5575.

LONDON age 52, professional, not bad looking & very fit woman, 5'4", not rich but solvent, many interests inc. plants, animals, arts, WLTM fit n/s unattached well balanced creative smartly casual gent, pref. Taurus or Capricorn, pref. not too tall. No picture thankyou. I prefer the real thing. SAE ensures reply. Box No 5755.

LONDON based, youthful upper *fifties lady, WLTM single, warm, professional* gent of similar age, for love and laughter. Please Reply to Box No 5440.

LOVELY feminine graceful damsel, long raven tresses, 5'8", 48, missing TLC, sun, laughter seeks travelled, 'cultured man 6'+, 52+ of wit & integrity. South/Sth East. Box No 5698

MACHO never, but definitely masculine, tall American, 40, businessman/professional musician (classical, jazz, pop), considered good-looking, athletic-build, GSOH, loyal, sensitive, *affectionate* n/s. Into arts, sports (not football), movies, travel and slow dancing. Seeking slim, attractive, intelligent woman, 25-35, to be my partner and best friend. Oxfordshire, but travel no problem for right woman. Photo with letter to Box No 5816

MEET attractive, sexy women at London singles' parties. *MEET 'N' EAT* 071 629 5534

MEN OF THE WORLD, now is your time! If you live in the Midlands we have over 290 sophisticated ladies 25-70. Elite Introductions 021 386 3444.

MIDLANDS 50 something, 5'5", attractive, sparkling, happily-divorced lady with zest for life but without dishwasher, who loves sport-esp golf, music-esp opera, travel-esp abroad. WLTM genuine, caring, taller man to help fill the gaps in her life. *Photo app. Box No 5726*

MISSION impossible? Christian, 5'10" ns non-drinking, 32. Seeks taller male version, 30-42. Enjoys travel, music, theatre. London/SE. Photo. *Please reply to Box No 5899*

MUSICALLY dyslexic, N. London Lecturer (44), tall, fair-haired, erratically eclectic in taste, constant to Theakstons, E. Brontë, labradors and the intellectual, wants to go to R. Scotts, R. Academy or whatever with recognisably human, intelligent male, over 5'8", genuinely under 50, who would enjoy some female company. Informative letter with photo ensures reply. Box No 5703

NURSE, young 46, slim, warm, sociable, intelligent. Varied interests, seeks kind personable outgoing gentleman for lasting relationship. Hants/Dorset border. Reply to Box No 5803

OVER 50!! Gentlemen in the Midlands looking for stylish and sophisticated women Elite Introductions' special offer for 14 days, we have over 280 ladies waiting to meet you. call for appt 0121 386 3444

OXBRIDGE Asian lady Doctor, 32, 5'6", elegant, pretty, idealistic and epicurean seeks a handsome, affluent, eloquent *gentleman of 6'+, 28-36 for permanent relationship.* Genuine replies only please to Box No 5814

OXFORD based slim & attractive brunette 44, full of life, bridge, tennis, theatre, good food & wine etc & plenty of friends but WLTM someone to share these with. Reply to Box No 5848

OXON-based, affectionate, slim, n/s, divorced woman, 46 years, graduate, professional career; loves countryside, books, classical music; seeks similar man initially *for outings/friendship.* Please Reply to Box No 5581.

"**PLACES** to go - things to do - people to see." Creative lady looking for soul mate (male) interested in the arts, countryside, travel etc. 55-65 to share happy, laughing, times! Please reply to Box No 5546

PRETTY petite bubbly 35 yr old lady WLTM attractive white professional single gentleman 30-38 for fun, romance, love & travel. Photo app. London /Surrey. Reply to Box No 5627

***PRETTY** American writer, lovely Russian psychologist/lawyers/ artists/musicians and more (all on video) seek love and marriage. Amour 0181 559 0120.*

VISITING Bahrain? Need an attractive intelligent female dining companion? Box No 5482

PRETTY professional 48 slim 5'6", warm, tactile, fun, n/s seeks slim & Arts loving male. Photo. SW Herts. Box 5567

PROFESSIONAL lady, 30, tall, slim, attractive and sporty. Caring, affectionate, V.G.S.O.H. W.L.T.M. gentleman 28-40 with similar qualities for friendship, evenings out and who knows - love! Midlands/Warwickshire. Please Reply to Box No 5887.

RECIPE Ami/Amour. Take 1 feminine stocking-clad blonde, but still tender fun loving hen. 1 attractive stylish dynamic cockerel 46-54. Add essential chemistry/GSOH. Large measure of libido. Stir in zest, spice, fragrance, bring to boil. Skim off moodiness, insincerity. Taste season simmer 1 hr. Serve on a bed (not rice) with sufficient good wine to relax but not soporific. Any solvent n/s tall caring male willing to drive to the Surrey area to enjoy this attractive 53 yrs cultured dish regularly, please write/photo to Box No 5889.

ROMANTIC athletic very attractive blond in her forties. Looking for a man to share candlelight moments, and who would pay her million dollar mortgage. Box No 5666

SHE, German, single, 69 j.o., slim, good-looking, like to do England/London who ret'd man, single, reliable, escort me? Separate cash? Please Reply to Box No 5917

SLIM attractive woman, 5'8", with style, intelligence and a successful career, seeks attractive, intelligent man 40-50 who likes to laugh and who appreciates that a relationship is a meeting of two people who treat each other with love, respect and sensitivity but each of whom is an independent and whole person. London/South East. ALA. Pls reply with photo. Box 5883.

SLIM auburn hair, 30 yr old lady, enjoys tennis, swimming, golf, cooking, from Herts, seeks kind, caring male. Photo appreciated. Please Reply Box 5876.

SOCIABLE, warm hearted recently divorced slim 5'7" attractive, 45 female in the medical profession, enjoys sport and the arts seeks prof /educated man for serious relationship. SE. Reply Box No 5809

SOPHISTICATED attractive slim warm affectionate 40's WLTM businessman n/s with GSOH sincere caring well travelled sporty tall no hang-ups for serious relationship. W. London /Surrey. Photo to Box 5838

STUNNING Home Counties lady, 32, with two delightful children seeks attractive, caring, professional man, under 45 to share this and many more summers. GSOH a must. Photo appreciated. Plse Reply Box No 5744

STYLISH lady 58 slim, attractive, *comfortable lifestyle*, home loving with hedonistic streak seeks urbane reliable n/s man, generous and appreciative. Sussex. Box No 5695

TALL, blonde, stunning, confident, very successful workaholic, 30 yrs, n/s, seeks similar but male and dark (6'+) and under 35. Would not suit someone easily intimidated! Photo/ phone no pls. Box No 5837.

THIS immature, lively 43 yr old, London based, attractive, blue-eyed brunette still wants to have fun! I'm vivacious, intelligent and independent but WLTM a 6' and over hunky guy aged 43-50 who enjoys sailing, keeping fit, good food, wine, music and is looking for a partner to have some fun with. Recent photo plse to Box 5704

TRULY Madly Deeply fascinating widow, Surrey based with children, WLTM cultivated man 40+ with wit, awareness, flair and integrity. Box No 5857

UNPRETENTIOUS Surrey lady *51, 5'7" slim, not unhappy* but missing the pleasures of friend/lover relationship seeks kindred man. Box No 5746

VERY attractive, upper class, sophisticated, petite Asian university graduate seeks definitely similar affluent gentleman, genuine, sincere, tall, slim, handsome preferably blonde and blue eyes 40-50 for love and marriage. London /South. Reply with photo please to Box No 5890

VIVACIOUS slim ex Ski Instructor with deep brown eyes and sparkling personality seeks athletic humorous professional 39+. I am 39, divorced, Mother of 2, own business. To find out more plse send photo if poss & inspiring letter. London. Please Reply to Box No 5804

WANTED! 40-50yr old male. Must be honest, warm, fun loving, spontaneous, solvent and n/s for attractive slim n/s mid 40's lady who enjoys all the good things in life. Surrey area. Photo/letter plse to Box No 5818

WELL travelled slim, feminine, elegant ex Co Director, 5'6" living North Bucks seeks gentleman 58-65 to share Henley, Ascot, theatre, concerts, travel, log fires, country walks and fun. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5914

WIDOW Smart, young looking, fit 46, seeks gentleman with good sense of humour. Interests include classical and 60s music, walking, holidays, painting, eating out. Lancashire, Cheshire area. *Photo* would be appreciated. Please Reply Box 5842.

YOU'VE weathered the storm, brushed yourself off, and ready to take your chance again. Maybe with me. It's worth a try! I'm v.attractive, mid 40's, 5'6", green eyes, emotionally stable. I enjoy town and country life, long Sunday lunches full of talk and laughter. I admire gentleness and loyalty. Summer is coming - wouldn't it be great! Are you intuitive enough to reply? Photo please - London/South West. Please Reply to Box No 5406

GENTLEMEN

ABLE athletic, handsome, n/s, mid 40s seeks that special someone to care for, cook for and caress. Write to me, photo ensures reply. (London). Please Reply to Box No 5573.

ABSOLUTELY well-proportioned in body/soul. Personable divorced Retd. Dir. with zest for life, seeks lady young 60s. N/S, financially secure, personable, attractive, comfortable casual /smart wear, feminine, warm, passionate, reads Tel/Times, occasional poem, loves/cooks good food, aware of pleasures of cuddles, physical/Platonic pursuits on beaches, countryside, believes in life after work/divorce or whatever to cloud 99 & beyond. Robert Brown said: "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp - Or what's a Heaven for? How true. Interested/serious? SW London, Surrey, Sussex & USA orientated. Plse write + recent photo + phone No. Box No 5644

ABSOLUTELY fabulous fella, good looking, tall, successful, cultured Director, 40's, absolutely normal, looking for pretty, bright, stylish lady 30's, with GSOH who likes wining, dining, theatre, travel, TLC and romance. Photo ensures reply. London/S.East area. Please Reply to Box No 5789.

ACCUSED of being "a romantic" by friends, sincere, sensitive, 60 looks 50 feels 40 young at heart, honest, mature, solvent, 6ft Taurian businessman, widely travelled. Divorced - no children, loves sailing, animals, antiques, good cook, enjoys entertaining, conversation, listening. WLTM much younger, elegant n/s lady, GSOH & dress sense to share interests - all types of music-on best hi-fi in W. London, concerts, more serious TV/films, cinema, card playing, dancing, superb food & wine, country walks, gardening. You would be fun loving, sharp witted, confident, looking for committed, loving relationship with view to more? I've never done this before. Recent photo essential. Box No 5635

ACTIVE gentleman, 53, single, 5'11', sincere, considerate, well educated, N/S, own business, seeks to share happiness, fun, music, travel, W. Coast of Scotland, with an attractive younger lady, perhaps a widow. Brief note, tel. No., photo welcome/returned. Can. Scotland, visits Tyneside/Cheshire /Surrey. Plse reply Box 5758

"- - - A flask of wine, a book of verse and - - - thou?" I'm young 54, male, divorced, no ties, prof, humorous, solvent, available for permanent commitment. You're younger, attractive, articulate, good natured, want to share happy, contented life in W. Isles with amiable companion, partner, friend. "Paradise?" It could be! Please reply to Box No 5705

A Lover/Friend/Confidant sought by - intelligent, professional laid back but organised guy, 38, independent, unconventional, genuine, optimistic, deep, good listener, naturally monogamous but appreciates personal space. Interests - too numerous to mention - write to find out! Ideal lady - intelligent, sweet natured, possibly career oriented, slim, feminine, stockinged. South based, but will travel for that special lady. Photo a bonus. Please Reply to Box No 5709

ATTRACTIVE doctor, 38, GSOH, wide interests seeks attractive female to nurse away those blues. Race immaterial. Photo essential. Box No 5739

ARE YOU THAI OR ORIENTAL?
Slim, kind & pretty?
I am 43, caring, romantic, OK looking and have my own house, business, yacht etc. but haven't yet found the right girl to share my life with. If this could be you, why not take a chance and reply. I promise to reply to all letters. Photo would be appreciated.
Please Reply to Box No 5620

AM *I* seeking the impossible! Roman Catholic Male Solicitor 35, seeks tall slim lady with traditional values to share holidays, sports, walking, the country. You like me may have own practice/business and would not normally consider answering this ad. Cheshire based. Plse Rply Box 5538

ARE you unhappy? A prisoner of convention or neighbours? Then escape & start a totally anonymous new life in lovely house with solvent scribe (60) whose arms would enfold you protectively and even cook gourmet meals for you if you are fun, medium solvent, thin or skinny, crave the quiet life & willing to play Bridge. Photo essential. Box No 5611

ARE you slim and attractive, a professional 25-36 n/s and, above all, very *female? If you* enjoy the odd drink, lots of cuddles and having fun, you've got the right ad! Me - well I'm 37, VGSOH, 5'10", slim/fit and successful. I enjoy wining/ dining and sport/travelling. Drop me a line - photo plse (returned) W. London. Box No 5555

ARE you 30's - waiting for a romantic 42 yr old Co. Director (5'9" Jewish N/O GSOH) to sweep you off your feet? Do you like Cinema, travel, eating out (or nights in!) Current affairs and want to share life *and lots of love? Then I want to* hear from you (photo essential) London/S.East. Box No 5782

ARTICULATE, amusing, presentable London professional, 39, cultured, Jewish seeking attractive, presentable, active and interesting, entirely uncommitted lady, max 35. Photo & phone essential. Box No 5563

ASIAN man, prof, 28, 5'11", good looking and very intelligent. Sometimes funny but always nice, seeks female with lots of integrity, lots of brains and lots of independence, *for...ever? Reply to Box 5891.*

ATTRACTIVE male very successful intelligent and warm, who enjoys a high standard of living. London S/E based. Seeks caring sincere v. attractive lady aged 30-38, to share the finer things in life. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5646

ATTRACTIVE? - search me! able to make you smile? - you bet! Well off? - OK. Aged? - mid 50's. Lonely? - Crusoesque! You?- If 50 miles Brighton please write Box No 5654

ATTRACTIVE, tall, professional 32 year old. WLTM witty, intelligent lady 28-36. Interests - travel, theatre, countryside, etc. London/Home Counties. Plse rply with photo. Box 5643

ATTRACTIVE, successful, well-educated, caring prof man, 32, London-based, into independent travel, sailing, seeks similar female 24-32 Nationality unimportant. Photo plse Box 5735

ATTRACTIVE 6ft tall, dark, slim, affluent, RCA grad 48, super home, Riviera apt seeks lovely 30's female for Cote D'Azur holiday & more. Box No 5770

ATTRACTIVE slim, caring lady (40/50) sought by fit divorced male (50). London/SE. Letter/ photo plse. Box No 5738.

ATYPICAL Caucasian Arab, tall slim non-smoking tea totaller, mid 40s, post-graduate, self-made, semi-millionaire, seeks younger compatible well-bred-and-groomed female companion. Letter and photo please to Box No 5864.

AUSTRALIAN Guy 39 years old in London on business soon would like to meet ladies 25-45. Phone 00 61 416 230 937.

A WEST Yorkshire young mid 40's businessman, loves sport, keeping fit, weekends away, dining out, dancing, beer and champagne, shopping, theatre & laughter. Looking for attractive, slim lady who likes similar, n/s. Recent photo please to Box No 5793

BACHELOR 55 involved in the film business in London - LA seeks attractive preferably tall lady 38-45 interested in travel and more. South London area. Photo etc please to Box No 5637

BATH Area. Fit prof man, 43. Interests inc Classical Music, Walking, Good Food, Motoring. WLTM attractive intelligent lady for caring and sharing. Please Reply to Box No 5781

BE Brave! Caring professional early 40's Midlands based, tall, handsome, creative, GSOH seeks attractive, curvy lady, black or white, 30's for lasting togetherness. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No, 5062

BEDS/Bux Retiring director WLTM lady 52-62 to share English house and Med cruiser. Please Reply to Box No 5390

BERKS. Successful prof. n/s 5'9" gentle/attractive/fit/faithful/ good humoured/various interests / "50ish" seeks similar "40ish" travelkeen soulmate/ lover/partner to cherish. Please reply/Photo pref. Box No 5878.

BIRMINGHAM Masseur, realising that ladies are not always horizontal would like to meet intelligent feminine female, *minimum age 48*, to share opera, country strolling, swimming, holidays, deep relaxation and hopefully more. Please Reply to Box No 5784

BUSINESSMAN 54, 5'11", medium build, reasonable looks, n/s, no ties, many interests, very well travelled, GSOH, intelligent. WLTM feminine, good figure, intelligent, sincere, no hangups, no lies lady for together future. No snobby, big headed, gold digging leaches of the type advertising opposite. Photo/address essential and within sensible distance of Bournemouth. Box No 5754

CHANNEL Islander, 58, 6ft, with style, substance and sex appeal (!) seeks slim, intelligent, attractive lady for a summer of weekends at the cricket, racing, theatre & Cotswold pubs. Based So'Ton, Cheltenham and Oxford when over. Box 5843

HANDSOME Christian professional, young looking 44, excellent company, well travelled, sporty. WLTM lady in London Area Box No 5667

CAMBRIDGE is no Raintown, but an alternative view From the New World to Dvorák's? Perfect Gent, 28, enjoys sport, travel and life, seeks genuine lady 20-30 to build special friendship, and Dignity. Please Reply to Box No 5689.

CO-DIRECTOR 36, 6ft, seriously silly seeks seductress. Failing that a career minded leggy lover 25-35 for film and food fun. Photo appreciated. Midlands. Box No 5764.

COLORADO based Englishman on sabbatical leave in Midlands (can travel), kind, considerate, cheerful, playful, adventurous, healthy, n/s, good appearance, mid 50's, considering partial relocation to UK, seeks attractive slim professional lady with patience, humour, diplomacy, good character, intellectual sparkle, solvency, 35-50, able potentially to re-locate or split UK/US residence: best of both worlds! Photo plse. Box 5789

COSMOPOLITAN, gentle, educated, youngish, early fifty, British man seeks lady, warm, loyal, attractive, preferable age 30-40s for a beautiful permanent relationship. Interests include classical music, books, films, jazz, nature, travel. Photo exchange/ returned. London-U.K. Reply to Box No 5871.

COSMOPOLITAN bon-viveur, sportsman with wide ranging interests, would like to spoil and cherish witty, fun loving and sporty London based lady up to her 50s who enjoys opera, concerts, theatre and eating out. Please Reply to Box No 5716.

DEVASTATING Debonair Dynamic Banker 43 with really naughty dark smouldering eyes seeks stunning special vibrant angel 30's for joint salvation from souless London life!!! Letter/Photo to Box No 5617

ELDERLY widower has a statistical expectation of life ten years & would like to enjoy them with a congenial lady. I have minor disabilities but am well-preserved, in good physical condition, good appearance, educated, cultured. 5ft 10, slim 10st 10: with some vitality, virility, & enthusiasm left: also financially able to *enjoy* leisure, generous holidays & travel. I have a long record as a good husband & am hoping for a warm, happy relationship: if I find it so will my partner. The lady might be any age but there are circumstances such that a substantially younger woman might like to take me on. She must be slim, max size 12, petite, max 5ft 4" & preferably pretty, obedient, submissive, affectionate, sexy, a graduate in domestic science & a motorist. But I might settle for less. You have nothing to lose, give me a phone number *for more information Box 5783*

ENJOYABLE Leo male 48 with no encumberances and a lifestyle that could be so attractive seeks a partner. A well educated, beautiful, younger woman who will turn heads, hold conversations, support a career and enjoys walks in the woods and candles over dinner. A romantic with her feet on the ground and a sense of humour to match mine. Londonish. Please Reply to Box No 5795

GOOD looking and active 39 year old divorced lawyer (no children or emotional hangups) seeks slim, very attractive, bright and younger female to bring the zest and sparkle back into his busy but balanced life. Nathalie LeLievre look alikes particularly welcome to apply! London or South East area preferred. Recent photo apprec. Please Reply to Box No 5710

GOOD-LOOKING 40 yr old businessman seeks lady 30-37 for companionship/travelling. No strings or commitments, must be free to travel abroad. London area. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 5515

GOOD looking man, 41, grad, music lover, various cultural interests, seeks attractive, sensitive woman for warmth, tenderness, & lasting relationship London area Box No 5888

HAMPSHIRE coast (but will travel) professional fit tall male 48 gsoh n/s considered good looking and very affectionate interests in music, art prefers 1:1 to clubs seeks similar woman for social or romantic activities. Plse Rply Box 5699

"**HANDSOME** Romantic Cornishman" 45, seeks attractive, petite, n/s, Christian lady, under 45, Interests, Art, theatre, travelling & romantic coastal, countryside walks dinners etc. Photo apprec. Please *Reply* to Box No 5882

INCURABLE romantic. Caring, generous, considerate divorced businessman, 58, with artistic and sporting interests. Wants to indulge a lady with wit, elegance and intellect, aged 40-50, who has a mean backhand, *a penchant for wining & dining* and other tactile talents. Based North East but mobile Box 5873

I need romance in my life! Life without sharing is boring. Investment banker 40 divorced needs elegant sophisticated soulmate 30-40 to embark upon a perilous journey i.e. a happy relationship. Photo preferred. Please Reply to Box No 5553.

INTUITION is the key. If it's important to you too then please reply. I am 35, English, dark features, good-looking. I love the fjords, log fires, good design, faithfulness, to love and be loved. South. Please Reply with photo to Box No 5731

KEEN Golfer also loves music, the arts and East Anglia. I am 62, 5'8" divorced, fit and solvent. Any trim ladies 56+ who would like to share lifes back nine. Please Reply to Box No 5742

KENT/Sussex border. Ret.Co.Dir. Tall, handsome, gentle, 70's n/s WLTM brunette widow 50's 60's for cuddles, TLC. Photo please & tel. no. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 5622

LANCASHIRE LAD professional, medium build 6ftish, fit 48, amiable and sincere. Interests include outdoor pursuits, gardening, serious music, seeks to meet sincere lady 36 plus. Photo appreciated. Box 5740.

LONDON-Successful businessman, 40, tall, slim, amusing, great company, wide interests, First Class lifestyle looking to share it with good-looking, stylish, bright, affectionate girl, 27+ who enjoys herself, people, arts, travel & looking, like me for a lasting relationship. Photo *& phone appreciated.* Box 5628

LADY, would you like a Gent to charm and love you forever? Tall, affectionate & sincere 42 year old would love to hear from you. Photo please - ALA. Any area V. genuine. Box 5692

LIGHT knight with slightly dented armour (36) ar[illegible] trusty, *if ageing, charger seek*[illegible] favour of insubstantial dam[illegible]sel (not necessarily in distress, but with access of local ear[illegible]al. PhD (Perfected harassing [illegible]ragons?) but bored with solitary tilting at technical windmills. Can't promise fairytale e[illegible]nding - enchanted castles have mortgages - maybe ad[illegible]ventures on quest? Full chro[illegible]nicle on receipt of thy illuminated manuscript. Box No 5661

LONDON-Yeovil train, Easter Friday, early pm, girl in green jacket & white trousers with violin case, reading The Times, standing, plse cont[illegible] Box 5896

MUCH travelled 56 year old British businessman [illegible] based in London would like to meet elegant and unattached lady *view to long term association. Photo appreciated.* Please Reply to Box No 5570.

PAKISTANI Hospital Doctor, sunni muslim, Punjab[illegible], 6' tall, slim build, late 30's, never married. Highly qualified, cultured and well educated, multiple and varied interests. WLT[illegible] a suitable female for [illegible] marriage. Please Reply to Box No 5648

PARIS based, 32, blo[illegible]nde, blue eyes, 6ft, athletic bu[illegible]ild, good looking, GSOH, [illegible]ccessful. seeks attractive, stylis[illegible] sensual lady 25-33 for special relationship. Letter & photo. B[illegible] 5736.

POLITICALLY incorrect Oxford Grad, 31, seeks female aged 18-33. Possession of any of the following would be a distinct advantage: Pouty li[illegible]ps, long hair, Nottingham accent, A/AA cup bra, a love of Sainsburys and loud music. Box No 5669

PROFESSIONAL guy, [illegible]30s seeks fun loving, lively fem[illegible]ale 20s-30s for caring friendship of shared interests (travel, theatre, sports etc.) Box No 5[illegible]578.

SAILING in summer, lo[illegible]g fires in winter. Busy professional planning early retirement, n/s, 51, atheist, 5'10", slim, b[illegible]lue eyes, quiet, dependable, loner, happily introverted, practical, compulsive craftsman, gardens, music, NW Essex. seeks compatible lady for [illegible]symbiotic relationship or just w/[illegible]e sailing, probably younger, slim, intelligent, independent. Photo appreciated. Box No 5890.

SLIM good-looking, well educated, caring, 5'10", 3[illegible]7. WLTM v. attractive, affectionate, fun-loving lady 25-35 with GSOH to share country walks, theatre, travel, eating in/out, f[illegible]or lasting relationship. Photo please. London/H. Counties. Please Reply to Box No 5967.

SPRING offer. 2nd hand but fully reconditioned in excellent condition, average milage, good runner, needs qualified female owner (28-40) with G.S.O.H. for long journey. Please Reply to Box No 5854.

STRAY alleycat, 31, fun, lots of *interests. Graduate*, sporty, tall, slim, attractive, n/s, warm, loyal and committed. Hants/South based. Seeks well worked out, bright fe[illegible]male mate. Photo ensures reply. Please Reply to Box No 586[illegible]8.

SUSSEX professional man 46, 6ft, good looking, young in spirit & appearance. Enjoys sailing (own boat), dining out, concerts etc, open top sports car (sunny days only!) and many interests include countryside, own village house, garden. Much travelled. WLTM caring younger woman to share interests and add fresh dimension to his life. You are out there somewhere. Box 5886

TALL cheerful slim professional. Paul 45 years young seeks interesting lady n/s. 25-45. London. Box No 58[illegible]9.

TALL, good-looking, professional male 32, seeks attractive female member of the Bar, under 30, for romance and world travel. Photo please. Box No 5649

TALL professional man, mid 40s, divorced, graduate, own business, many friends, cosmopolitan interests including the arts. VGSOH. Seeks lively professional woman, 5'7"+, who is stylish, slimish, well-spoken and good at mixing socially. Leeds/Newcastle areas. Please reply to Box no 5902

TEST Match? Prof man, 37, slim, sporty, sincere, sardonic, spiritual, sympathetic. Seeks easy going n/s lady for London friendly that could end love all. Please Reply to Box No 5647

TRAVELMATE sought by attractive retired, n/s, 56 yr old for car journey/holiday France & Spain next October. Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 5559.

VERY Good Looking well-travelled, successful business man, 50, 5'9", caring, romantic & living in the country side (nr. Warks/Worcs border) seeks a beautiful & stylish, well spoken, refined lady, 35-45, who is romantic, caring, tender & loving. Someone very special who can share varied interests from good music, dining out, to log fires & country pursuits and a close, loving relationship. Photo please to Box No 5708

WANTED. The woman who would never normally reply to an advert placed here! You are 25-35, sporty, enjoy the outdoors, travel, good food and good conversation, but there is just one thing missing! He is 38, athletic, educated, successful and spontaneous. Photo appreciated, but definitely not essential. You'll never know unless you reply.... will you? Yorks., N.West, Anywhere. Box 5934.

YORKSHIRE based professional gentleman (38), amusing, sincere and secure, who is content with both the humdrum and the exciting WLTM that elusive special lady. Are you the one? Plse Rply to Box 5696

GAY, discreet, thoughtful (44; [illegible] W1) seeks one well-bred, honest, intelligent professional for quality, mutually supportive, happy-ever-after realistic relationship. Box No 5647

GAY middle aged [illegible]ent, tall, handsome, warm [illegible] and romantic, likes: mu[illegible]sic, arts, sports, the country [illegible] and all things good and beauti[illegible]ful - seeks friend to alleviate lo[illegible]nely days. Please Reply to Box No 5893

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هكذا من الأصل

GAMES

by Raymond Keene

LAST WEEK we saw in action those two great masters of the past, Alexander Alekhine and José Capablanca. The fiery Alekhine has often been compared with Garry Kasparov, the PCA champion, while Capablanca's Olympian strategy is seen as the inspiration for the play of the FIDE champion, Anatoly Karpov. On April 21 Karpov was in London at the Royal Albert Hall to receive the accolade from the International Chess Writers Association for the best player of 1994. Fascinatingly, as Karpov enters his mid forties his play, far from falling off, has become deeper, richer and strategically more complex. Here is an example of one of his recent masterpieces from an important qualifying match.

White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Boris Gelfand
Sanghi Nagar, 1995
Grunfeld Defence

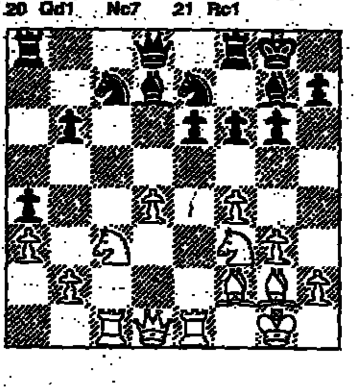
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6
3 g3 c6 4 Bg2 d5
5 cxd5 cxd5 6 Nf3 Bg7
7 Ne5 0-0 8 Nc3 e6
9 0-0 Nfd7 10 f4 Nc6
11 Be3 f6 12 Nf3 Nb6
13 Bf2

The opening variation has led to a more or less symmetrical position which could easily burn out to a draw. Nevertheless, Karpov loves such situations. He has no chance of losing and the slight edge conferred by White's extra move means that he can torture opponents almost endlessly. In fact, he has a fine record with this opening.

Black's next move has been criticised. He should probably prevent any White activity in the centre by means of the resolute 13 ... f5 which would lead to a particularly rigid type of trench warfare.

13 ... Bd7 14 e4 dxe4 15 Nxe4 Nd5 16 Re1 b6 17 Nc3 Nce7 18 Qb3. Black's trump is his blockade of White's isolated queen's pawn, but his weakness is the pawn on e6. If White ever breaks the blockade and marches through the centre with the move d4-d5, Black will be in trouble. That explains Black's next move. He tries to drive White's queen away from contact with d5, but against Karpov, all pawn moves tend to be weakening.

18 ... a5 19 a3 a4
20 Qd1 Nc7 21 Rc1



Ideally Black would now like to play 21 ... Bc6, lining up his bishop on the important light squared diagonal and thus underscoring the cornerstone of his strategy, which is to reinforce the d5-square. There is, however, an amazing tactical flaw to this, pointed out by the chess program Fritz, namely 21 ... Bc6 22 d5!. If now 22 ... exd5, then 23 Bxb6 is slaughterous. Alternatively, 22 d5 Nexd5, and now the simple 23 Nxd5 wins material. Finally, 22 d5 Ncxd5 23 Rxe6 Nxc3 24 Qxd8 Raxd8 25 Rxe7 with a clear edge for White.

21 ... Ncd5 22 Nd2 Re8
23 Nc4 Bf8 24 Ne4 Bb5
25 Re2 Be7 26 Rec2 Rb8
27 Qd2 Rf8 28 h4 Ne8
29 Ne3 Ng7 30 Nc3

This cracks Black's blockade over d5. 30 ... Nxe3 31 Rxe3 g5. Desperate for counterplay, Gelfand weakens his own position.

32 hxg5 fxg5 33 Ng4 gxf4
34 gxf4 Bd6 35 Rf3 Be8
36 Ne5 Nf5 37 d5 Bxe5
38 fxe5 Rb7

Black's last chance was 38 ... exd5, but it should be observed that if 38 ... Qxd5 then 39 Rg3+ nets the black queen.

39 Kh2 Rg7 40 Bh3 Bh5
41 Rf4 Kh8 42 Bxd5 exd5
43 Bh4 Qe8 44 Bf6 Bg4
45 Bxg7+ Kxg7 46 Rc7+ Kh8
47 e6 Qh5+ 48 Kg1 Qg5
49 Kf2 Qh4+ 50 Ke3

Black resigns. White's king easily evades Black's checks.

WINNING MOVE

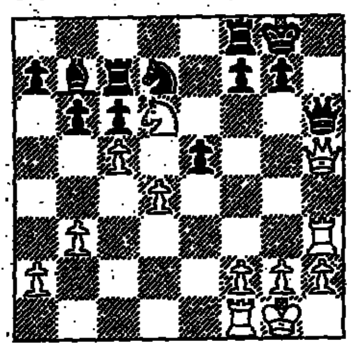
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Toth - Szigetti, Budapest, 1946. White has give up a piece to open the h-file against the black king. However, his efforts are currently being impeded by the black queen. How did he overcome this problem?

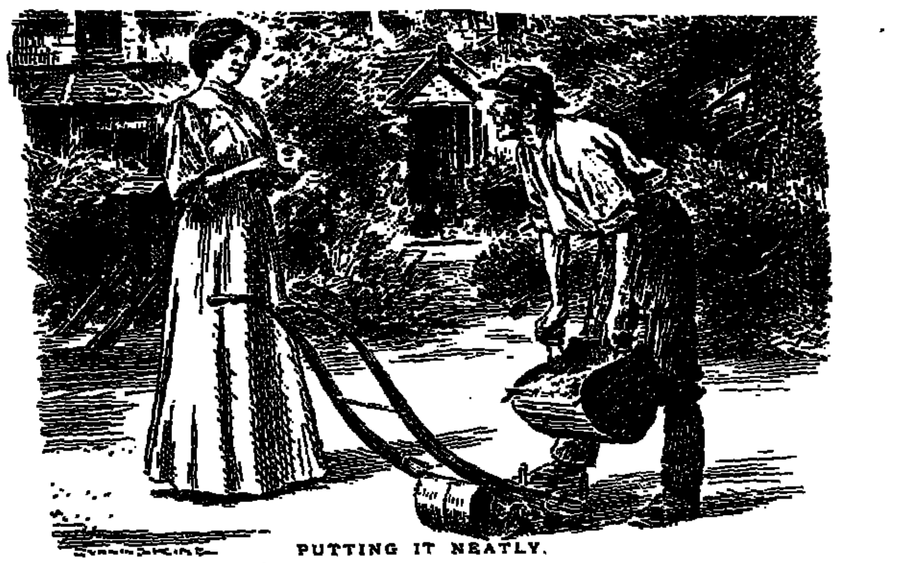
Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ...fxg3 (and if 2 fxg4 Rxf2+ mates).

Last week's winners: M A Mortimer, Poringland, Norfolk; A Hall, Goring-by-Sea, W Sussex; I Brudenell, Mansfield, Notts.



PUNCHLINE



PUTTING IT NEATLY.

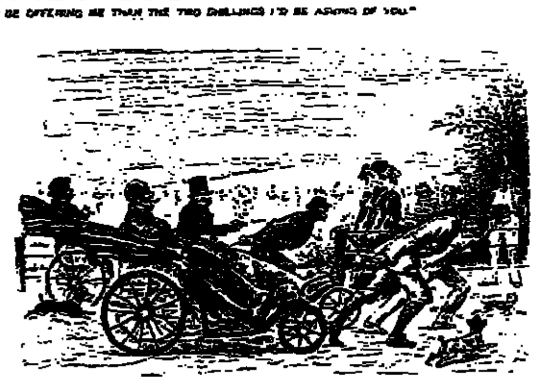
Lady (to Irish gardener, who "obliges" by the day). "WELL, DAN, AND WHAT DO I OWE YOU FOR TO-DAY?"
Dan. "SURE, MA'AM, I'D SOONER BE TAKING THE HALF-CROWN YOU'D BE OFFERING ME THAN THE TWO SHILLINGS I'D BE ASKING OF YOU."

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon above. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestion, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 55, Weekend Games Page, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 3.



"It's ridiculous, Damon. These new fuel regulations are killing the sport"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by David Jordan of Havant, Hampshire

COMPUTER GAMES

NO MATTER what you say, the National Lottery is here to stay in spite of the televised draw. And who would have thought a year ago that the profitable enterprise would spawn an equally lucrative satellite business helping us — wait for it — to select six numbers?

Among the offerings the pen is the best — and about the cheapest. It's a plastic ballpoint with a bubble one end filled with tiny, numbered lotto balls. After a good shake six balls trickle into the barrel — and that's that. For the coach potato there's the video, It Could Be You. Insert the tape and press pause a few times.

Then there are the numerous computer titles surfacing. Probably as good as any is the simple "Lucky 6". This comes on a 3.5-inch floppy disc for the personal computer, and for about £10 is the equivalent of ten goes on the real thing. Made by Aesthetics, it is marketed by Northampton's Lamron Organisation (01604 881724).

To select your six numbers, tap the spacebar and up they come at random. The process can be repeated five times, and the results printed out. The programme also includes a number analysis feature to keep track of how many times a number has won since it all started. This is only good if you can be bothered to input the winners every single week.

Some games today come with warnings. "Lucky 6" offers this gem: "Only play the National Lottery when you can afford it, and remember that it was designed for fun, so enjoy it and good luck. It is illegal for persons under the age of 16 to purchase National Lottery tickets". So now we know.

It is a pity that this isn't a game with a money-back satisfaction guarantee. However, if there is no games column next week you can assume "Lucky 6" is the most fabulous programme ever invented.

Lucky6 PLUS

Cyberspace Fourteen promises Philips CD-i prizes for a lucky three readers. This is the last call for the competition, which closes at midnight on Tuesday May 2.

To enter you must invent a computer game with home entertainment systems in mind, coming up with a multi-player game for all the family. What could possibly turn a family of couch potatoes into a family of CD-i players? You tell us.

Cyberspace Fourteen is open to all ages and the judges will favour originality. Entries must be highly legible and between 150 and 350 words. Please include your name, age, address and telephone number and clearly mark the envelope: Cyberspace Fourteen, Computer Games, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax entries to us on 0171-729 6791.

The first winner will receive a Philips 450 CD-i player with a video upgrade cartridge and three CD-i titles. Two runners-up will each receive the same three CD-i titles plus a T-shirt.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

DO YOU ever think about why you overcall? Here are some of the reasons.

(a) It gets in the opponents' way and deprives them of bidding space.
(b) It may be the only chance you have to indicate a lead.
(c) The hand may belong to your side.
(d) You may be able to set up a profitable sacrifice.

The main danger in overcalling is that you may be doubled and go for a penalty. So in general an overcall needs a better suit than an opening bid, though it does not need so much in the way of high-card strength. With these points in mind, what do you bid on each of the following hands? In each case your right-hand opponent opens One Club at Love-all.

♠AQ1032 ♥42 ♦643 ♣632

One Spade: even though you only have six points, the advantage of getting in the spade suit is paramount. Remember, bidding One Spade over One Club is destructive, and makes life difficult for the opposition. To see why this is a mandatory overcall, consider how would you bid this hand after your partner has opened One Club:

♠1042 ♥AQ73 ♦Q876 ♣K4

You can respond One Heart, with the idea of bidding No-Trumps next time, or of raising your partner if he bids No-Trumps. Either way you plan a calm and informative auction. What do you do if your right-hand opponent rudely bids One Spade over One Club? The hand becomes a problem. Duplicate players who use negative doubles can start with a Double but even so bidding space has been consumed. Rubber bridge players are immediately in trouble.

♠J8732 ♥AQ4 ♦1063 ♣42

Pass: Now the suit really is too weak, and the hand has little offensive potential. Besides, if your left-hand opponent is about to bid No-Trumps, you don't want to discourage your partner from leading hearts if he has them.

♠Q2 ♥862 ♦KQJ83 ♦654

One Diamond: The hand is not productive, and One Diamond does not use up any bidding space. But this is a good opportunity to indicate a lead. Take away the queen of spades and I would Pass.

♠96432 ♥4 ♦AQ5 ♣AJ103

One Spade: This may look a bit odd after what I've said about having a good suit. But now another consideration comes into play - this may be your side's hand. It will be unfortunate if your left-hand opponent bids 3NT and your partner leads the king of spades from Kx. However, you have to risk that for the more frequent occasions that you are able to buy the contract. Give your partner spade support and you could make a lot of tricks with this hand.

♠KJ3 ♥J7653 ♦KQ ♣K103

Pass: This is a perfectly sound opening bid, but it is not suitable for an overcall. Overcalls should either have a good suit, or be designed to buy the contract when your side has a fit. This hand comes into neither category — it has an indifferent suit and it is poor in offense. And you do not want to divert your partner from his normal lead.

By the way, if you are playing a weak No-Trump much the best opening bid on this hand is 1NT. If your partner is of the old-fashioned school which holds that you are not supposed to have a five-card major when you open 1NT, put a diamond in with the hearts if you subsequently have to put the hand down as dummy.

Now consider a much stronger hand. Again your right hand opponent opens One Club, and you hold :

♠AKJ53 ♥A2 ♦A4 ♣J632

One Spade: how can you bid the same on this hand as you did on the first hand I gave? Over the past few years the trend has been to widen the accepted strength range of an overcall. The modern style is to confine the take-out double to hands which have the classic take-out double shape — short in the opener's suit and with at least three-card support for all the unbid suits. Only if you are very strong should you start with Double on an unsuitable shape. Make the clubs Axxx and this hand would be too strong for One Spade — now you would Double, and then bid spades at your next turn.

Two-Level overcalls: now you definitely need a reasonable suit, as the opposition are more likely to double for penalties.

Bids on etiolated suits like 97xxx for offensive purposes are out. However it is still worth being aggressive when you are cutting out a lot of bidding space. At Love-all bid Two Clubs over One Diamond on:

♠Q42 ♥A54 ♦102 ♣KQJ97

because it cuts out all your left-hand opponent's one-level bids. But pass over One Spade — on the whole, with an unproductive hand, you need a six-card suit for a two level overcall.

When there might be a big double fit, you do have to overcall on poorer suits.

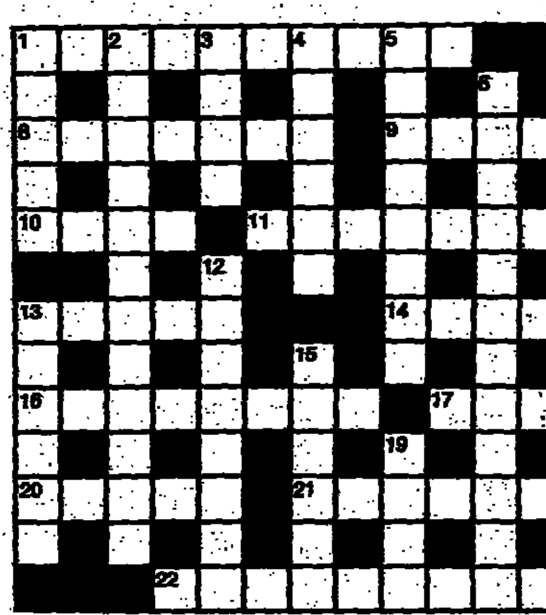
For example, on:

♠4 ♥KQ963 ♥63 ♣AJ643

you have to bid Two Hearts over One Spade in case both sides have a fit.

I will discuss responding to overcalls in a later column.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 458

ACROSS

1 Thames-bird marking process (4-6)
8 Prudent; ingenious, crafty (7)
9 Not enforce (a right, penalty) (5)
10 Tale; fibre (4)
11 Prostrating headache (8)
13 Humorous sarcasm (5)
14 Instrument; functional unit of body (5)
16 Personification of England (4,4)
17 Cut; bargain (4)
20 Artificial waterway (5)
21 Work for; queen (pawn) (7)
22 Seekers of knowledge (10)

DOWN

1 British Indian soldier (5)
2 (Accept or reject) in full (3-2-7)
3 Competent at; as far as (2,2)
4 Alfresco meal; easy task (6)
5 One brought in to make changes (3,5)
6 Insincere (12)
7 Lower (one's) dignity (6)
12 Standing for something else (8)
13 Introduce (by syringe) (6)
15 Pass (of time) (6)
18 The common people (5)
19 Baptismal receptacle (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 457

ACROSS: 1 Go off 4 Go for it 8 Corporeal 9 Goa 10 Ohm 11 Tubbiness 12 Hence 13 Tight 16 Microchip 18 Urn 20 Tor 21 Discarded 22 Riotous 23 Eerie

DOWN: 1 Gecko 2 Oarsman 3 From the word go 4 Goes by 5 Fall into place 6 Rogue 7 Transit 12 Hamster 14 Go under 15 Thesis 17 Cargo 19 Nudge

TIMES PUBLICATIONS: The Times Guides: English Style & Usage (HB) £8.99. Japan, Nations of the World, Middle East, Good University Guide 1995-96, Single European Market £9.99 each. Peoples of Europe (HB) £16.99 European Parliament - June 94 (HB) £26. The Times Guide to the New British State (HB) £27.99. The Times Maps (Folded): The World 48" x 30" £5.99. Ireland 26" x 38" £3.99. British Isles 33" x 36" £5.99. Miscellaneous: The Times Night Sky 1995 £4.50. The Times Illustrated World History (PB) £13.99. NEW The Times Illustrated History of the World (HB) £26. The Sunday Times Book of Answers £4.50. Book of Brainteasers £5.49. Prices include P&P (UK). Send cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Delivery in 8 days. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

WORD-WATCHING

Reference dictionary to be won

KEEN word watchers today can win a useful lexical tool: The Oxford English Reference Dictionary. Priced at £23.99, the dictionary contains over 130,000 entries, covering nearly all the vocabulary needed for Word Watching, from *Blair* through *Maradona* to *shiitake* and beyond. The first correct entry opened will receive a copy of the dictionary and £30 worth of book-tokens. The two-runners up will each receive a copy. Entries should be sent on a postcard to *Word Watching, Times Weekend, The Times, London E1 9XN*, and must arrive by Monday, May 8 1995. Only the corresponding numbers and letters need be used on entries.

1. ZYGOTE
a. Egyptian beer
b. A sandfly
c. A protoplasmic nucleus

2. WHIMBERRY
a. The bilberry
b. An imaginary invalid
c. A top-gallant extra sail

3. VASQUINE
a. A Pyrenean bandit
b. A petticoat
c. Gooseberry cordial

4. VIZY
a. To pay a visit
b. A fencer's mask
c. An Ottoman official

5. MERACIOUS
a. Pure
b. Lying
c. Partial

6. GRAMINIVOROUS
a. Having cracks and crevices
b. Destructive
c. Eating grass

7. ERGASIOPHOBIA
a. A succulent cactus
b. Dislike of work
c. Fear of authority

8. XENOPUS
a. Kindness to strangers
b. An early hotel
c. A toothy toad

9. ZOOPERY
a. Neapolitan iced soup
b. Animal experimentation
c. Affected wackiness

10. OXYMORON
a. A bitter idiot
b. A contradiction
c. Using part for the whole

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

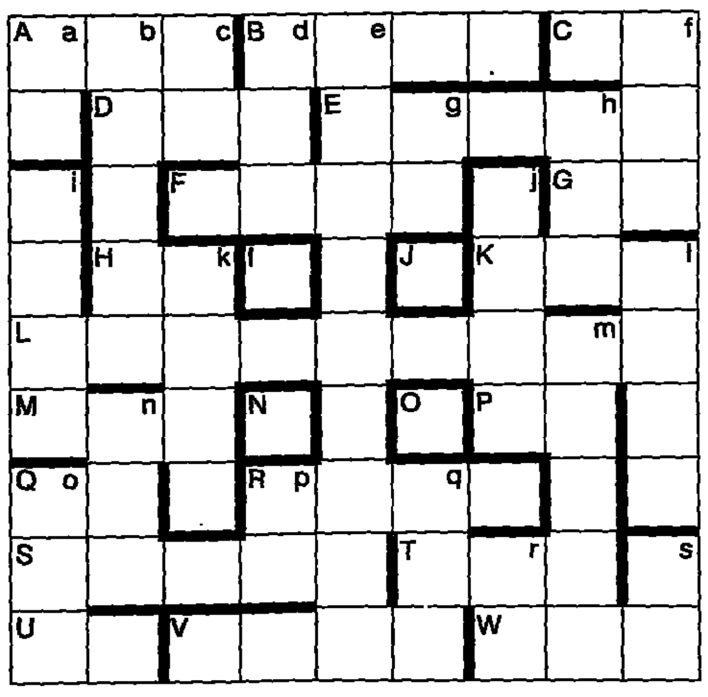
No. 3303: Unsquare Dance by Googly

The clues are all triads α, β, γ such that $\surd\alpha + \surd\beta = \surd\gamma$.
α^* denotes the reverse of α.
None of the numbers A, B, C .. a, b, c ... starts with a zero nor does its reverse if it appears in the clues. Where a number and its reverse are both in the clues, the number is not a palindrome. Capital letters refer to across lights and small ones to down lights. It might prove helpful to know that S^* is a perfect square.

The number X in the last clue is not in the grid. Solvers should complete the grid and find X.

CLUES

1 s, J, W
2 i, I, m
3 s*, T*, I
4 q, q*, V
5 K, A, M
6 M - 2I + J, L, e
7 a, N, P
8 j*, f, R*
9 C, O, p*
10 b, E, S*
11 Wh*, d, S*
12 G, D*, B - n - r - c
13 H - U, B, F + a
14 I + J, g + Q, A - J
15 o*, k*, X



X =

LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3303

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

....

POSTCODE ....

PRIZES: Book tokens worth £50 will go to the winner. The two runners-up will each win £20 book tokens.

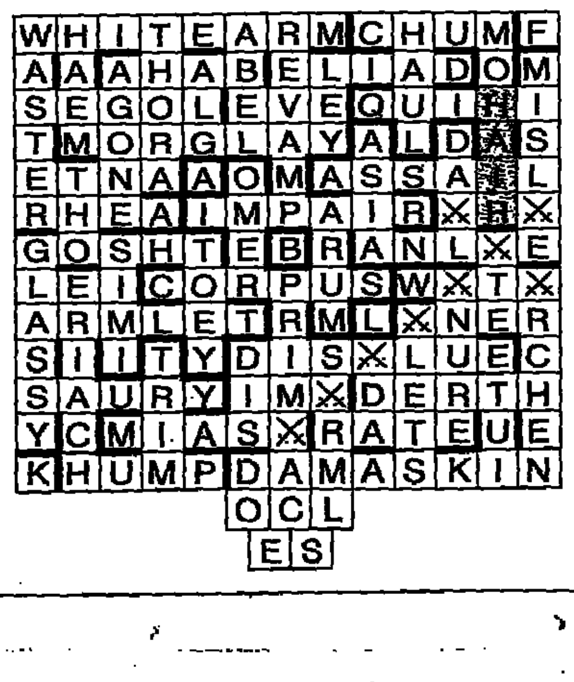
ADDRESS: Readers should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to The Listener Crossword 3303, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, May 11.

Solution and notes to No 3300: Hangover by Plausus

The following battles appeared in the grid:
IVRY 1590 MARNE 1914/18 ACCRA 1824 ALMA 1854 LAON 1814 AGINCOURT 1415 VARESE 1859 PARMA 1734 ULM 1805 entered as symbolically crossed swords. Other swords unclued were WHITEARM MORGLAY DAMASKIN WASTER ANLACE SIMI

The main diagonals contained both:
WAGRAM 1809 BULL RUN 1861/2 and FOIL TUCK SABRE. 8 down, *only partly clued*, contained the HAIR by which the sword hung above the head of DAMOCLES as alluded to in the title.

The winner was Mrs S.V. Richards, of Huddersfield. The runners-up were M.J. Barker, of Woking, Surrey, and Charlie Eddis, of Chester.



W	H	I	T	E	A	R	M	C	H	U	M	F
A	A	A	H	A	B	E	L	I	A	D	O	M
S	E	G	O	L	E	V	E	Q	U	I	H	I
T	M	O	R	G	L	A	Y	A	L	D	A	S
E	T	N	A	A	O	M	A	S	S	A	[illegible]	L
R	H	E	A	I	M	P	A	I	R	✕	H	✕
G	O	S	H	T	E	B	R	A	N	L	✕	E
L	E	I	C	O	R	P	U	S	W	✕	T	✕
A	R	M	L	E	T	R	M	L	✕	N	E	R
S	I	I	T	Y	D	I	S	✕	L	U	E	C
S	A	U	R	Y	I	M	✕	D	E	R	T	H
Y	C	M	I	A	S	✕	R	A	T	E	U	E
K	H	U	M	P	D	A	M	A	S	K	I	N
					O	C	L					
					E	S						